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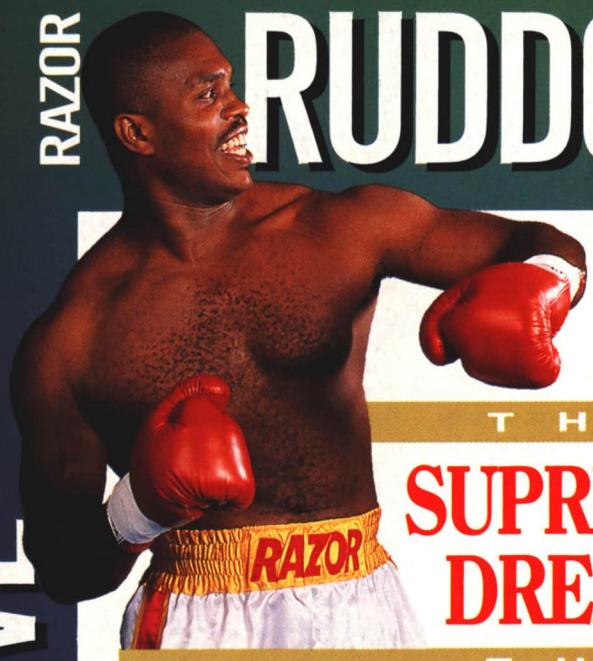

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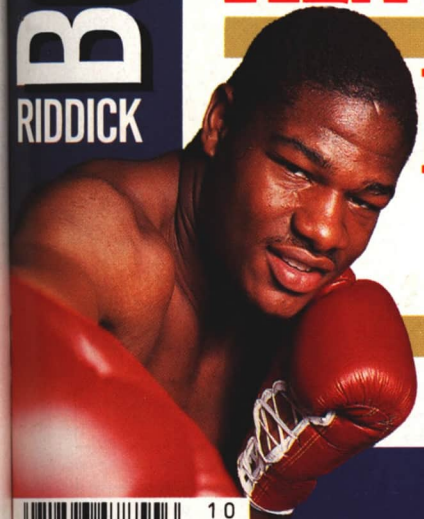

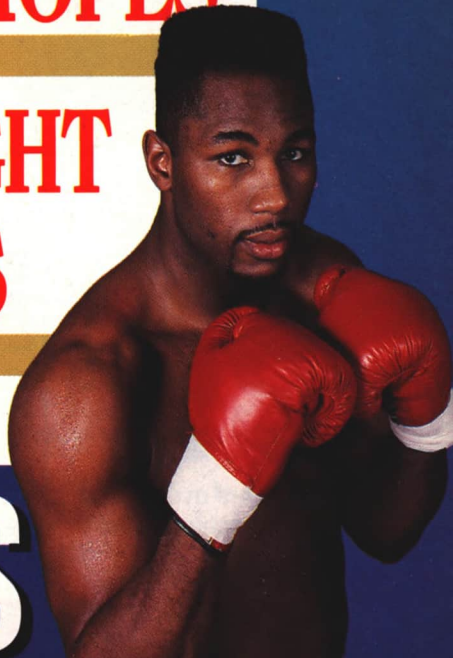

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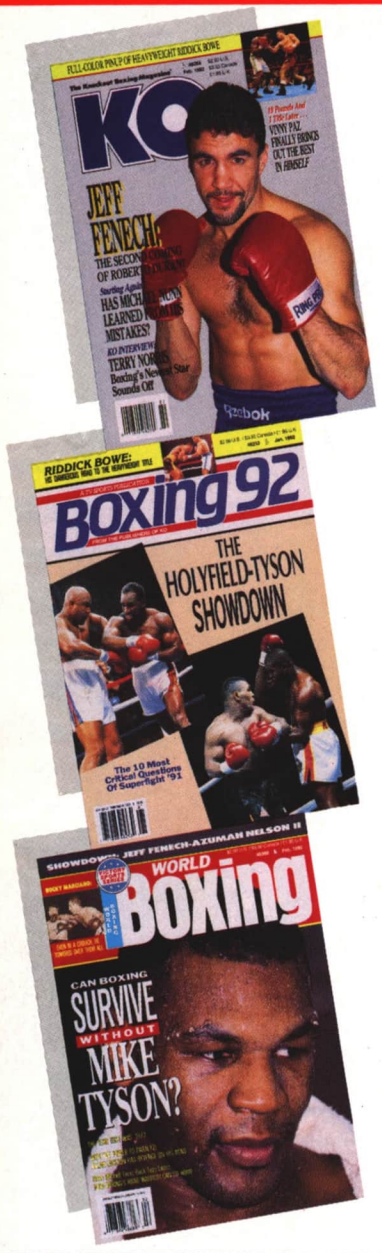

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Contents

Features

18 *THE RING'S* EXCLUSIVE PHOTO QUIZ
Test Your Boxing IQ

20 TOP-RATED FEATHERWEIGHT KEVIN KELLEY: After Conquering The World, He Wants to Conquer . . . Flushing?
by Jeff Ryan

24 THE BEST OF A NATION
This Month: South Africa's All-Time Top 10
by Ron Jackson

26 IS MELDRICK TAYLOR SHOT?
by Robert Cassidy

30 LIGHTWEIGHT CONTENDER SHARMBA MITCHELL
The Littlest Big Man On Campus
by John Scheinman

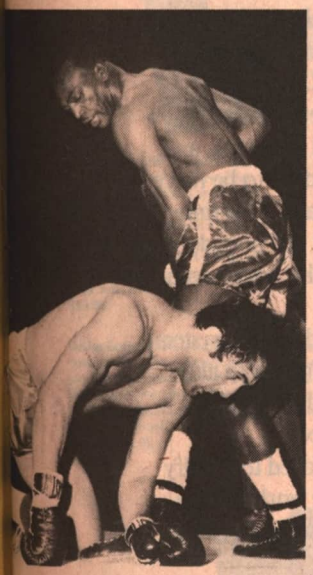
page 20

32 FOURTEEN YEARS AFTER BOXING, BOB FOSTER IS STILL LAYING DOWN THE LAW
by Joseph C. Tintle

36 THE SUPREME DREAM
The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls

46 SIXTIES SENSATION EDER JOFRE
The Best Of His Day . . . Even If You Never Saw Him Fight
by James Dusgate

October 1992



page 32

Color Centerfold

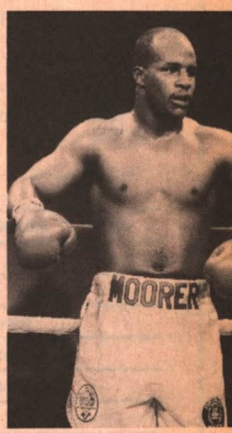
40 MAX BAER
by Stanley Weston

Ringside Reports And Analyses

50 FIGHTER OF THE MONTH & RINGSIDE REPORTS

Ratings

10 THE RING'S INTERNATIONAL RATINGS & RECORDS
72 WBC, WBA, & IBF RATINGS

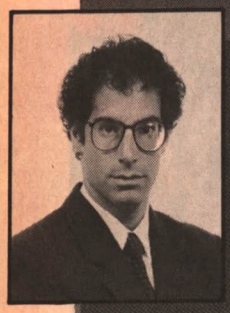


page 36

Departments

4 RINGSIDE
6 COME OUT WRITING
8 ROUND ONE
14 KATZ SCAN *by Michael Katz*
16 NEW FACES: Welterweight Skipper Kelp
22 BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS: Carlos Palomino vs. Donald Curry
28 TIME CAPSULES
48 WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS
71 BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK *by Don Scott*
74 THE RING CLASSIC: HOW GOOD IS FULLMER? *by Nat Fleischer*
78 LOOKING AHEAD *by Robert Cassidy*

Cover Photos: Michael Moorer, Lennox Lewis, & Razor Ruddock by Al Bello; Riddick Bowe by Kevin McManus
Centerfold By Stanley Weston



Ringside

If you ever wonder what the NBA or NFL would be like without a college draft, you should examine amateur boxing just before the Olympics. You'll see superscout Lou Duva not only eying a hot prospect, but shouting instructions from his corner. ("You're boxing *byoot-ee-ful* out there!") And Emanuel Steward, the Wizard of Kronk, extolling the virtues of working out in a gym where the temperature is fixed at 100 degrees. And Akbar Muhammad, one of Bob Arum's lieutenants, explaining to a teenager why consistent exposure on ESPN will be invaluable to his pro career.

The Games of Barcelona are upon us, which means that the Class of '92 is about to graduate. A couple of months ago, Larry Donald, Eric Griffin, Raul Marquez, and Oscar De La Hoya were known only to amateur boxing's officials and fans, which number only a few thousand. Over the first two weeks in August, however, there'll secure the prime time television exposure that is usually reserved for Bill Cosby, Roseanne Arnold, Burt Reynolds, and Jerry Seinfeld. That's how stars are born.

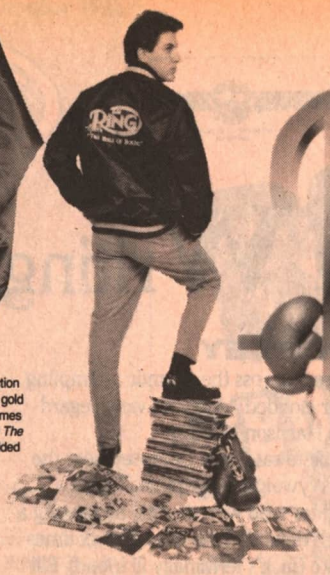
Do not underestimate the significance of the Olympics. In recent months, boxing insiders have come to appreciate the value of network television. When ABC, NBC, and CBS turned off their cameras, *everyone* suffered. But in Barcelona, the world will be watching every night. And in case you forgot (four years is a long time), nothing can match the drama of a young athlete going for the gold.

A couple of things to remember: This is the first Olympic competition since *1976* that will feature both the USA and Cuba. Toss in the Russians and Germans, and, in the lighter weight classes, the Koreans, and the competition promises to be fierce. In 1988, we won three gold medals without having to face the Cubans. This time, three gold medals would be a fantastic accomplishment. Griffin, at 106 pounds, and De La Hoya, at 132, seem our best bets. And keep an eye on Donald, whose accurate jab is the best weapon an amateur can possess.

Also, before the Games are over, the relatively new computerized scoring system, in which the five judges actually count punches, will force certain fighters to alter their styles. The system favors clean, crisp hitters, and penalizes bodypunchers, whose short hooks and uppercuts are difficult for the judges to detect.

It's been stated *ad infinitum* that some of boxing's best fighters failed to qualify for the Olympics. But so many others introduced themselves on the world's stage. The Games of Barcelona will allow us to peek at the future of the game. The fresh faces will be welcomed.

Steve Farhood
Editor-In-Chief



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Come Out Writing

NO FAN OF DEMPSEY

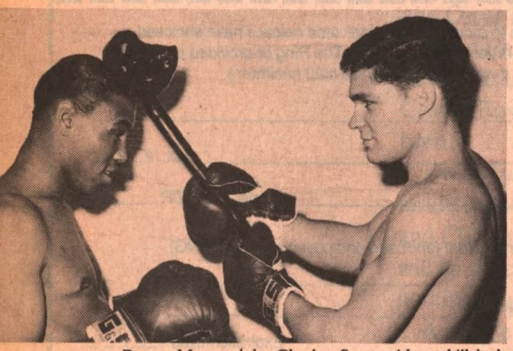
Here is an unbiased opinion from across the Atlantic attempting to put into perspective the rather clouded American view regarding the greatness of one William Harrison Dempsey.

American publications continue to rate Jack Dempsey near the very top of the all-time list of heavyweight champions. This is a rather elevated position for a fighter who won the title by beating a 37-year-old Jess Willard, and then defended the title only six times in seven years, against Billy Miske (Jack's terminally ill friend), Bill Brennan, Georges Carpentier (a great fighter, but a light heavyweight), Tommy Gibbons (another light heavyweight), Luis Firpo, and Gene Tunney. (Why isn't Tunney ever rated alongside Dempsey, whom he beat twice?)

Dempsey fought in an era between Jack Johnson and Joe Louis, and when blacks fought only blacks and whites fought only whites. He was indeed one of the most exciting heavyweights in history. But should he be mentioned in the same breath as Louis, Johnson, and Ali? I don't think so.

PHILIP LISTER
Warwickshire, England

Dempsey: An all-time great?



Denny Moyer clubs Charley Scott with a shillelagh

WHEN MOYER WAS KING

A friend of mine insists that Denny Moyer was once a world champion. The Moyer I remember from the '70s was an active middleweight on the West Coast. I know he lost in a title shot against Carlos Monzon, but I don't think he ever won a world title fight. Who's right?

STEPHEN SAMUELS
Denver, CO

Editor's Note: Denny Moyer won the vacant world junior middleweight title by outpointing Joey Giambra in October 1962. He made one successful defense before being dethroned by Ralph Dupas.

PRAISE OF CESAR

Why does *The Ring* continue to print letters that are painfully ignorant? In the July 1992 issue, Greg Ortega showed his lack of boxing knowledge by writing one of the most ridiculous letters in recent memory ("Risk That Record!")

Julio Cesar Chavez is a three-time world champion who has beaten, among others, Mario Martinez, Ruben Castillo, Roger Mayweather, Juan LaPorte, Rocky Lockridge, Edwin Rosario, Jose Luis Ramirez, and Meldrick Taylor. His recent opposition, of course, has not been outstanding, but John Duplessis, Lonnie Smith, and Angel Hernandez are not exactly bums.

Further, Chavez has remained at junior welterweight since May 1989. Since that time, one proposed opponent, Meldrick Taylor, has moved up to welterweight, and, until recently, another, Pernell Whitaker, has fought at lightweight. The fact that Chavez' promoter, Don King, and Taylor and Whitaker's promoter, Dan Duva, are rivals does not help things.

The point, Mr. Ortega, is that suggesting that Chavez is a coward is way out of line. To think he's scared of Taylor, whom he's already beaten, or Whitaker, is absurd.

MATT AGUILAR
El Paso, TX

Lynch: A tragic story

ONE FLY'S STORY

I would like to thank Associate Editor Edward P. Maloney for his article in the June 1992 issue on one of history's great flyweights, Benny Lynch ("Why The Cheers Have Never Died: The Enduring Legend of Benny Lynch").

I am glad that *The Ring* was able to bring the story of one of Scotland's best-loved sporting heroes to the attention of all fight fans. Until now, Lynch's tragic story had been known only to fight fans in Benny's homeland.

Also, why no flyweights in "Battle Of The Legends"?

BARRY SMEATON
Forfar, Scotland ■

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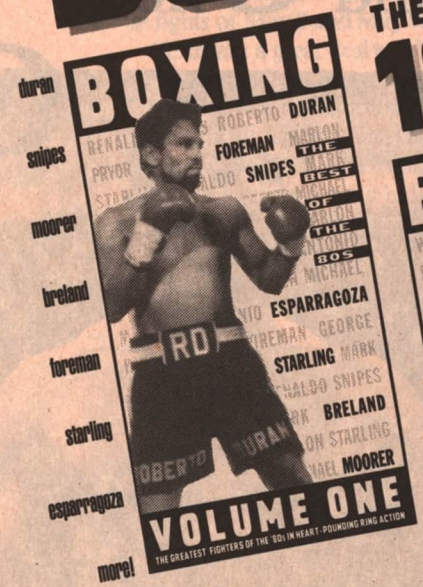

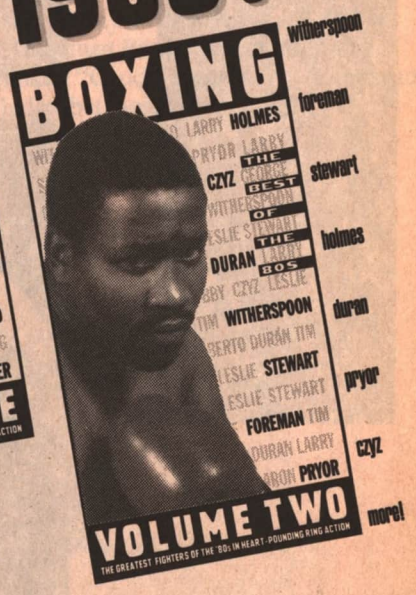

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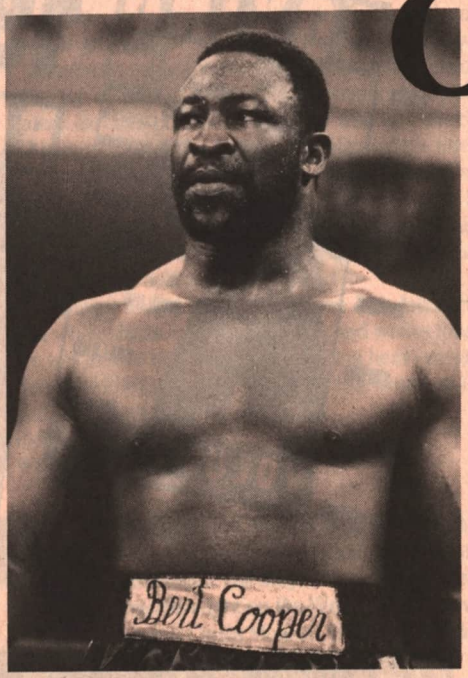


Cooper: Busted for drugs

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Eleven days after **Smokin' Bert Cooper's** toe-to-toe slugfest with **Michael Moorer**, the Philadelphia heavyweight was arrested on drug charges in Chester, Pennsylvania. According to reports, police found a cocaine pipe and a plastic bag containing white powder hidden in his sock. He was charged with one count each of possession of drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia. After losing to **George Foreman** in June 1989, Cooper admitted to cocaine addiction . . . In West Hartford, Connecticut, former welterweight champion **Marlon Starling** was charged with carrying a dangerous weapon and third-degree criminal mischief.

THE BUCK NEVER STOPS

Buck Smith may not be the most talented welterweight in boxing, but he's surely the most ambitious. On May 19, Smith fought two bouts in two different states, and won both.

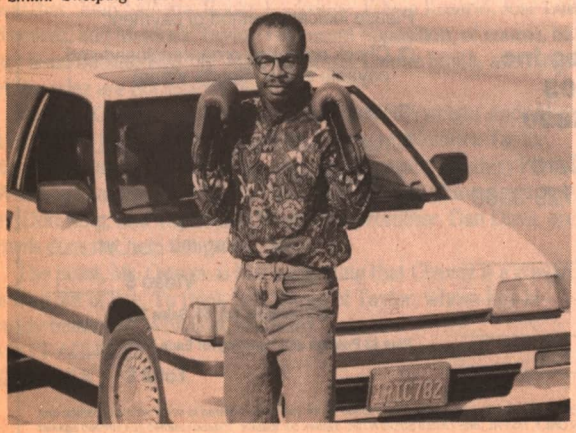
Smith, traveling with cutman Joe Haug, drove 165 miles from Oklahoma City to Wichita, Kansas, and arrived 30 minutes before his scheduled fight. He dressed in his van and then kayoed Marco Davis in two rounds.

Less than three hours later, he was back in Oklahoma City in time for a six-round decision over Rodney Johnson.

It is easy, of course, to criticize the quality of Smith's opposition. But, as he told *USA Today,* "I'm not fighting one bum a month, I'm fighting three or four."

We profiled Smith in the June 1992 issue of *The Ring*. At the time, he was 96-2-1. His doubleheader sweep in May raised him to 110-2-1. And if you don't turn the page fast, he'll be 111-2-1 . . .

Smith: Sweeping a doubleheader



Minker: An exemplary official

BOXING LOSES A FRIEND

Chuck Minker, the executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission since 1987, died on May 17 of a rare form of lung cancer. He was 42.

Long regarded as one of the fight game's top administrators, as well as one of its most honest citizens, Minker essentially ran boxing throughout the state. He worked during his 13-month illness, and was ringside in Las Vegas for the Czyz-Lalonde and Norris-Taylor title fights of May 8 and May 9.

"It meant a great deal to him," said Jack Welsh, *The Ring's* correspondent in Las Vegas.

"He was the best commissioner in the country," said New York State Athletic Commission Chairman Randy Gordon, who was among those to eulogize Minker. "Chuck taught the referees how to ref and the judges how to judge, but most of all he taught all of us how to live."

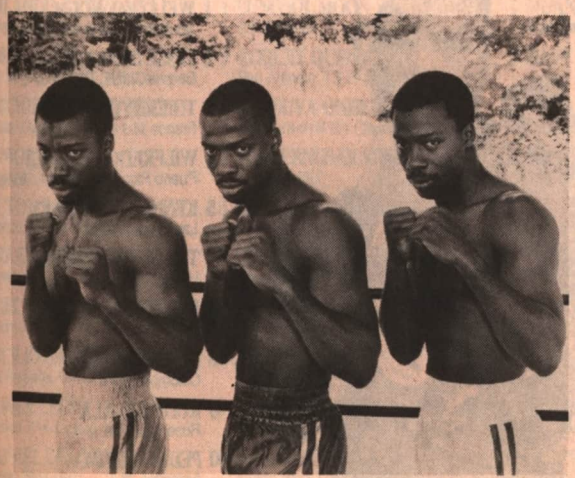
FINGER LICKIN' GOOD

As is now the custom every four years, the U.S. Postal Service has issued postage stamps to commemorate the Olympic Games. The government first issued Olympic stamps before the Winter and Summer Games of 1932. Such stamps were not issued again until 1960, but since 1972, stamps have been issued before each Olympics.

The winning designs for the Barcelona Games, which depict boxing, volleyball, gymnastics, soccer, and swimming, are the work of Richard Waldrep, a Baltimore-based commercial illustrator.

The stamps, which were unveiled in June, are available at post offices throughout the country.

Boxing's stamp of approval



The Weaver triplets: Tournament bound

TV TOURNAMENT

On July 8, promoter Hank Schwartz and matchmaker Don Elbaum began World Television Championships II, a five-division tournament featuring 14 fighters per weight class. WTC II is a pay-per-view event, with one show per week through November 24. There will be a recess during the Olympic Games. Preliminary rounds are priced at $7.95 per show, semifinal rounds at $9.95, and the finals at $14.95.

(WTC I was held 15 years ago, and, according to Schwartz, was a success until Don King began his own tournament on ABC-TV.)

Among the fighters scheduled to compete: Buster Mathis Jr., Anthony Hembrick, Bomani Parker, Willie Edwards, Thomas Tate, Saoul Mamby, Freddie Ladd, Louie Lomeli, Tony Baltazar, and the Weaver triplets, Floyd, Lloyd, and Troy. The divisions are super heavyweight, heavyweight, light heavyweight, middleweight, and welterweight.

According to Elbaum, WBC welterweight champion Buddy McGirt and IBF middleweight champion James Toney have agreed to defend against the tournament winners of their respective divisions. ■

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended June 10, 1992

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By *The Ring* Editors
Records Compiled By Eric Armit

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Atlanta, GA *27-0 (World Champ)*

2 RIDDICK BOWE
Fort Washington, MD *30-0*

3 RAZOR RUDDOCK
Canada *26-3-1*

4 LARRY HOLMES
Easton, PA *54-3*

5 MICHAEL MOORER
Detroit, MI *29-0*

6 TIM WITHERSPOON
Philadelphia, PA *37-3*

7 TONY TUCKER
Beverly Hills, CA *44-1*

8 GEORGE FOREMAN
Marshall, TX *71-3*

9 LENNOX LEWIS
England *20-0*

10 RAY MERCER
Newark, NJ *18-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 JULIAN JACKSON
Virgin Islands *44-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 JAMES TONEY
Ann Arbor, MI *31-0-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 MIKE McCALLUM
Brooklyn, NY *43-1-1*

4 SUMBU KALAMBAY
Italy *53-5-1*

5 ROY JONES
Pensacola, FL *17-0*

6 REGGIE JOHNSON
Houston, TX *31-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

7 LAMAR PARKS
Greeneville, SC *21-0*

8 GERALD McCLELLAN
Detroit, MI *25-2*

9 BERNARD HOPKINS
Philadelphia, PA *18-1*

10 STEVE COLLINS
Brockton, MA *21-2*

Steve Collins

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA *32-3 (WBC Champ)*

2 GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy *55-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 VINNY PAZIENZA
Cranston, RI *31-5 (WBA Champ)*

4 JOHN DAVID JACKSON
Seattle, WA *25-0*

5 VERNO PHILLIPS
New York, NY *16-5*

6 JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina *34-1*

7 GILBERT DELE
France *33-1-1*

8 JORGE CASTRO
Argentina *65-3-2*

9 AARON DAVIS
Bronx, NY *33-1*

10 CARL DANIELS
St. Louis, MO *27-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 PAUL HODKINSON
England *20-1-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 MANUEL MEDINA
Mexico *41-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea *21-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY *28-0*

5 COLIN McMILLAN
England *23-1*

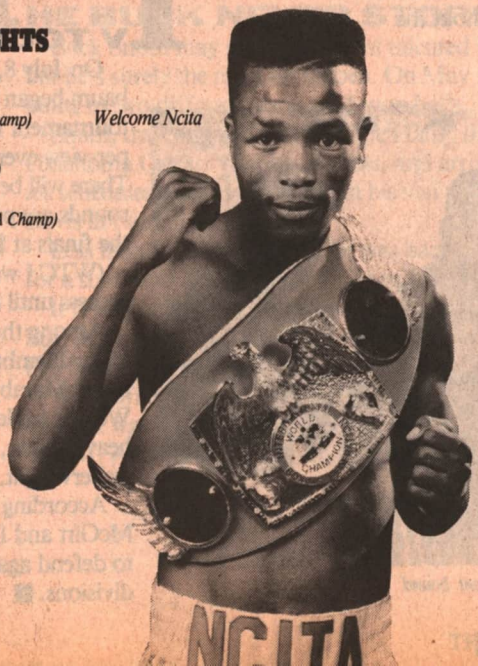
6 JESSE JAMES LEIJA
San Antonio, TX *22-0-1*

7 TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI *28-2-1*

8 TROY DORSEY
Mansfield, TX *13-5-4*

9 LOUIE ESPINOZA
Phoenix, AZ *45-5-2*

10 JEMAL HINTON
District Heights, MD *21-0*



Welcome Ncita

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 WELCOME NCITA
South Africa *31-0 (IBF Champ)*

2 JESSE BENAVIDES
Corpus Christi, TX *35-1-1*

3 THIERRY JACOB
France *38-3 (WBC Champ)*

4 WILFREDO VASQUEZ
Puerto Rico *32-6-3 (WBA Champ)*

5 KENNEDY McKINNEY
Las Vegas, NV *21-0-1*

6 TRACY PATTERSON
Highland, NY *44-2*

7 DANIEL ZARAGOZA
Mexico *44-6-1*

8 LUIS MENDOZA
Colombia *33-3-2*

9 RUDY ZAVALA
Rosemead, CA *16-0-1*

10 PEDRO DECIMA
Argentina *28-3*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 **BOBBY CZYZ**
Montgomery, NJ *40-5 (WBA Champ)*

2 **JAMES WARRING**
Miami, FL *14-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *34-2 (WBC Champ)*

4 **JEFF LAMPKIN**
Youngstown, OH *35-13-1*

5 **ORLIN NORRIS**
Campo, CA *33-3*

6 **ALFRED COLE**
Newark, NJ *20-1*

7 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *19-2-1*

8 **DEREK ANGOL**
England *26-0*

9 **AKIM TAFER**
France *13-3*

10 **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
Las Vegas, NV *16-1-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Mansfield, OH *32-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

2 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Detroit, MI *50-4-1*

3 **VIRGIL HILL**
Bismarck, ND *32-1*

4 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *31-2*

5 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *22-1 (WBC Champ)*

6 **LEEONZER BARBER**
Detroit, MI *15-1*

7 **HENRY MASKE**
Germany *16-0*

8 **GUY WATERS**
Australia *14-2-1*

9 **SAUL MONTANA**
Mexico *17-2*

10 **CRAWFORD ASHLEY**
England *17-4*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1 **IRAN BARKLEY**
Bronx, NY *29-7 (IBF Champ)*

2 **VICTOR CORDOBA**
N. Ireland *16-2 (WBA Champ)*

3 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Davenport, IA *37-1*

4 **CHRIS EUBANK**
England *31-0*

5 **MAURO GALVANO**
Italy *19-1-2 (WBC Champ)*

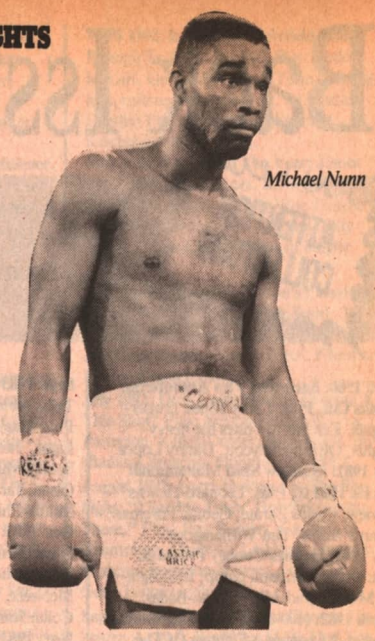
6 **NIGEL BENN**
England *32-2*

7 **TIM LITTLES**
Flint, MI *18-0*

8 **DARRIN VAN HORN**
Lexington, KY *47-3*

9 **TONY THORNTON**
Glassboro, NJ *28-4-1*

10 **MERQUI SOSA**
New York, NY *19-2-1*



Michael Nunn

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Hauppauge, NY *55-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Cheltenham, PA *29-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 **SIMON BROWN**
Germantown, MD *34-2*

4 **MAURICE BLOCKER**
Germantown, MD *33-2 (IBF Champ)*

5 **GENARO LEON**
Mexico *41-2-2*

6 **GLENWOOD BROWN**
Plainfield, NJ *36-3*

7 **CRISANTO ESPANA**
N. Ireland *25-0*

8 **SANTOS CARDONA**
Puerto Rico *22-3*

9 **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
Mexico *42-0*

10 **DAVID GONZALEZ**
San Jose, CA *28-1-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *80-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *29-1*

3 **RAFAEL PINEDA**
Colombia *28-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 **AKINOBU HIRANAKA**
Japan *20-1 (WBA Champ)*

5 **TERRENCE ALLI**
Linden, NJ *49-7-2*

6 **CHARLES MURRAY**
Newark, NJ *24-1*

7 **HECTOR CAMACHO**
Big Cypress, FL *39-1*

8 **PAT BARRETT**
England *32-1-1*

9 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *30-4-1*

10 **RODNEY MOORE**
Philadelphia, PA *30-6-2*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *32-17-3*

2 **JORGE PAEZ**
Mexico *40-4-4*

3 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *27-1*

4 **DARRYLL TYSON**
Washington, D.C. *39-4*

5 **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
Takoma Park, MD *28-0*

6 **CHIL SUNG CHUN**
South Korea *17-1*

7 **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME *27-0*

8 **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
Mexico *27-0*

9 **FRANKIE MITCHELL**
Philadelphia, PA *28-1*

10 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *39-3-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *34-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *25-0 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *26-3 (IBF Champ)*

4 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *26-1-1*

5 **BERNARD TAYLOR**
Knoxville, TN *44-2-2*

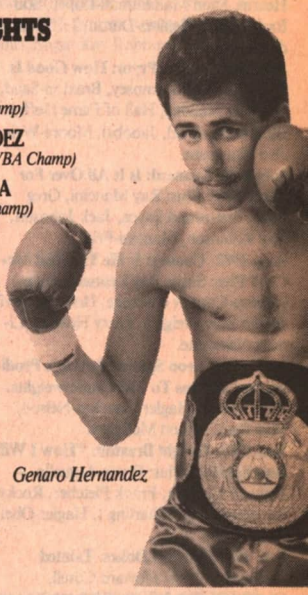
6 **GABE RUELAS**
Arleta, CA *30-1*

7 **CALVIN GROVE**
Philadelphia, PA *41-4*

8 **REGILIO TUUR**
Whitestone, NY *28-2-1*

9 **YUJI WATANABE**
Japan *9-0*

10 **RENATO CORNETT**
Australia *20-1-1*



Genaro Hernandez

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Laredo, TX *31-1-1 (IBF Champ)*

2 **EDDIE COOK**
Las Vegas, NV *17-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
Japan *7-0-1*

4 **JUNIOR JONES**
Brooklyn, NY *22-0*

5 **VICTOR RABANALES**
Mexico *31-10-2 (WBC Champ)*

6 **ISRAEL CONTRERAS**
Venezuela *35-3-1*

7 **ELIECER JULIO**
Colombia *20-0*

8 **CECILIO ESPINO**
Los Angeles, CA *22-2*

9 **JAVIER LEON**
Mexico *37-4-2*

10 **RAFAEL DEL VALLE**
Puerto Rico *13-0*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 **SUNG KIL MOON**
South Korea *16-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **ROBERT QUIROGA**
San Antonio, TX *19-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
Japan *18-0 (WBA Champ)*

4 **THALERNGSAK SITHBAOBAY**
Thailand *37-3*

5 **ARMANDO CASTRO**
Mexico *46-8-1*

6 **GREG RICHARDSON**
Youngstown, OH *29-4*

7 **VINCENZO BELCASTRO**
Italy *22-5-3*

8 **JOSE QUIRINO**
Mexico *28-6*

9 **GERRY PENALOSA**
Phlippines *20-0-1*

10 **JOSE RUIZ**
Puerto Rico *22-2*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 **MUANGCHAI KITTIKASEM**
Thailand *17-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *18-2-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **YONG KANG KIM**
South Korea *25-3 (WBA Champ)*

4 **RODOLFO BLANCO**
Colombia *26-6-1*

5 **SCOTTY OLSON**
Las Vegas, NV *22-0*

6 **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
Soviet Union *12-0*

7 **YUN UN CHIN**
South Korea *26-0*

8 **YSAIAS ZAMUDIO**
Blythe, CA *28-3-1*

9 **PAT CLINTON**
Scotland *19-1*

10 **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
Mexico *19-2-1*

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 108 pounds

1 **HIROKI IOKA**
Japan *20-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MYUNG WOO YUH**
South Korea *36-1*

3 **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
Phoenix, AZ *23-0 (IBF Champ)*

4 **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
Mexico *32-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
Mexico *32-3-3*

6 **LEON SALAZAR**
Panama *15-3-1*

7 **JOSE DeJESUS**
Puerto Rico *26-2-1*

8 **DOMINGO SOSA**
Dominican Republic *16-1*

9 **KWANG SUN KIM**
South Korea *5-0*

10 **ROBINSON CUESTAS**
Panama *22-0*

POUND FOR POUND
Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Junior Welterweight

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Junior Welterweight

3 **TERRY NORRIS**
Junior Middleweight

4 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Heavyweight

5 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Bantamweight

6 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Welterweight

7 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Junior Lightweight

8 **JULIAN JACKSON**
Middleweight

9 **SUNG KIL MOON**
Junior Bantamweight

10 **JAMES TONEY**
Middleweight

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Oct. 1983: (104-Page Special)—Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Who's who?, Jose Sulaiman, Billy McNeece, Marty Servo, Milton McCory, Collin Jones.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Dec. 1983: Greg Page: 'Holmes Will Never Fight Me—He's A Chicken-Livered Coward!' Plus: Hagler-Duran, Tim Witherspoon, Jake LaMotta, Cedeno-Magri, "Winners" by Leroy Neiman.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

March 1984: Fighter Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Plus: *The Ring's* annual awards, 1983 fight calender, Carl Williams, Jung-Koo Chang, Chandler-Ruiz (color).

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: *Ring's* ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: *Ring* Olympic Special. Plus: Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Frank Bruno, Bramble-Mancini (color), Hatcher-Bumphus (color).

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns. Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown. Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Dec. 1988: Mike Tyson Special. Plus: Leonard-Lalonde preview, Barry McGuigan, alphabet wars, Jeff Fenech, Mauro Mina, Meldrick Taylor.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target . . . Tyson: Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Chavez-Taylor preview, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowers, Muhammad Ali.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough! Plus: Archie Moore, Moore-Marciano (color), Grudge Wars, Kid Berg, Ike Williams-Alexis Arguello.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before!" By Evander Holyfield. Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, Ali-Liston II, New York welters, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

Aug. 1990: His Greatness Confirmed . . . Is Julio Cesar Chavez The Greatest Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, Sullivan & Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Thanks For The Memories: Rocky Graziano, 1922-1990. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tyson, Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering Of Champions (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Marciano-LaStarza, boxing's best chins, Azumah Nelson, Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-Holyfield preview, Marciano-Frazier, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ. Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century. Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be . . . But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

August 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight . . . And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

October 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

November 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, Overrated and Underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

December 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, Rating the 44 World Champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

January 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

March 1992: Turning Heads—Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Huh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: After Mike Tyson's Conviction: What Now? Plus: Buck Smith, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder & Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Foreman-Liston, Tyson (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

August 1992: Larry Holmes On The Big Fight: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Carnival of Champions, Oscar De La Hoya, Haugen-Mancini, Foreman-Stewart, Harry Greb, Gene Tunney (color).

September 1992: Julio Cesar Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Fight The Legends? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez & Nicky Acevedo, alternate careers, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

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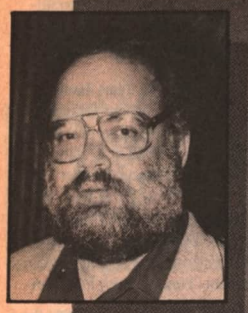


Katz Scan

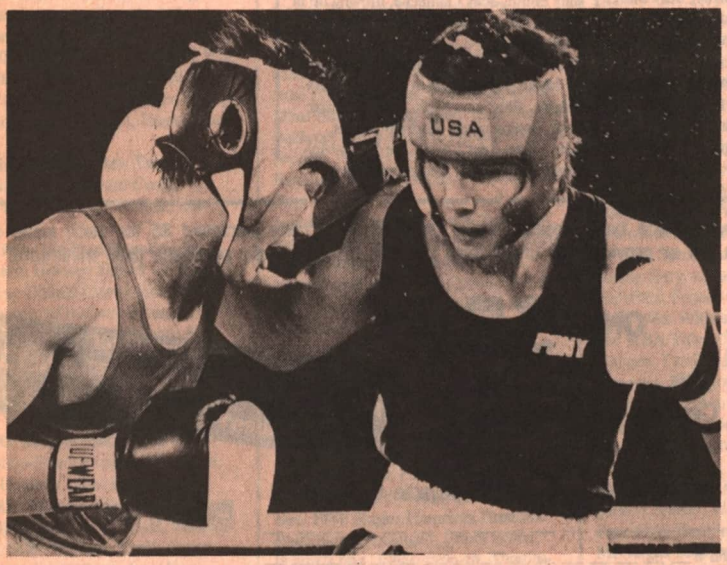
By Michael Katz

QUADRENNIAL CLEAN-UP

I do not like much about amateur boxing. The snob in me protests the inartistic pawing of novices trying to ply the manly art. The rules of the amateur game, which give as much credence to a jab as to a knockdown punch, offend me. Boxing, as one of my Scottish colleagues, the grand Hugh McIlvanney, likes to point out, "is about hurting." Even before the age of computers, amateur boxing was scored by human computers—called judges— blindly adding apples and oranges.

The politics, incredibly, may be worse than it is in professional boxing. I still recall Cus D'Amato, with this little heavyweight he had, complaining that the poobahs of American amateur boxing refused to allow Mike Tyson to compete in the super heavyweight class. Cus said he was under threat to keep Tyson at 201 pounds or force him to win all his bouts leading to the 1984 Olympics by knockout. In other words, Tyson was never going to win a decision.

The ugliness soars to Olympian heights every four years. Who can forget the Yugoslav referee who disqualified Evander Holyfield in 1984, innocently setting up a gold medal for a countryman who would not even have to fight a final? Or poor Roy Jones Jr. in Seoul, the victim of home-nation scoring that, coming four years after the Los Angeles Games, seemed just to the Koreans? Or the countless dual meets between East and West, with judges that would make Jose Sulaiman blush?



American amateurs, like 20-year-old light middleweight Raul Marquez (shown outpointing Russia's Talgat Berdybekov), hope to use to Olympic Games as a springboard into the pro ranks.

There seems to me something intrinsically wrong in "amateur" boxing. If a young man is going to get punched in the head for the entertainment of the audience and millions of television viewers, and of course the enrichment of TV advertisers and networks, it seems only fair that he get paid for the privilege. The shibboleth that amateur boxing builds strong bodies and keeps kids off the streets does not excuse this. Libraries would keep children off the streets just as well, and the brain damage caused by reading might be less.

But in modern times, boxing is saved every four years by its roots. The Olympics, quite unintentionally, breathes new life into the game, and never has mouth-to-mouth resuscitation been more necessary. The game's biggest draw wastes away in prison. Its biggest promoter is hounded once again by the Federal posse. The stench of rotten deals and bad decisions has removed the thin veneer of credibility. The sight of two courageous men engaged in hand-to-hand combat still draws high ratings on television, better than most baseball and basketball games. But mainstream advertisers have run

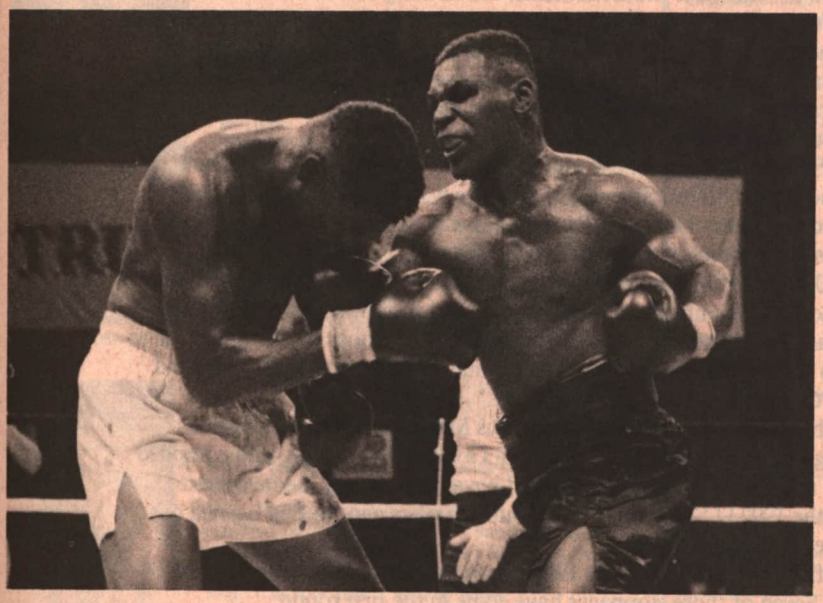
away, unwilling to be associated with a so-called major league sport that in Tokyo came close to cheating a fighter out of its biggest prize. The forces of greed and evil that ganged up on Buster Douglas did not win the battle, but they helped lose the war for all of boxing.

With commercial TV forced to the sidelines, the doldrums have been stiller than ever. No new stars have been allowed to emerge without the spotlight of network TV. Buddy McGirt, Azumah Nelson, James Toney, Julian Jackson, Mike McCallum, yes, even Julio Cesar Chavez and Pernell Whitaker, have been unable to match the drawing power of the remnants of the past. As a result, old stars like George Foreman, Larry Holmes, Hector Camacho, and Ray Mancini have cashed in, while the sport as a whole has become poorer.

But the four-year drought will end. Boxing is a cyclical sport, and its highs are marked by the Olympic Games, which pump new blood and new breath. It is almost as if amateur and professional boxing were two separate sports. This is no ringing endorsement of amateur boxers. A spot on the Olympic team, even a gold medal, is no guarantee of success in the pro ranks. Consider:

- In 1984, Mike Tyson was beaten—fairly, under amateur rules—by Henry Tillman.
- In 1976, one of the finest amateurs of all-time, Howard Davis Jr., who was voted the best boxer of all Olympians that year, beat out Aaron Pryor for a spot on the U.S. team.
- In 1972, a so-called heavyweight chicken tried crawling out of the Trials ring against Duane Bobick—and Larry Holmes went on to become one of the greatest heavyweights in history.
- Which heavyweight would you want to manage—Joe Frazier or his Olympic Trials conqueror Buster Mathis?
- Some talents fall into the cracks. Thomas Hearns, for example, was too young in 1976, but turned pro in 1977 and didn't do too badly.

The Olympics becomes the talent pool for the new stars. It is the NFL or NBA draft, except it's held only once every four years. It is comparable to Olympic figure skating, a quadrennial replenishing of the cast of *Mickey Mouse On Ice.* Vultures by the dozen are drawn to such feeding frenzies as the Olympic Trials, with pro managers and promoters drooling at the next Sugar Ray Leonard or Mike Tyson. Mothers and fathers of fighters are courted shamelessly, as are their amateur coaches. Promises are made, usually the first promises to be broken in the pros.



Tyrell Biggs won a gold medal at the 1984 Olympic Games. Mike Tyson failed to make the team. Three years later, they fought as professionals, and Tyson released his frustrations.

The Games themselves may not matter. It didn't matter in 1980, when President Carter ruled out Olympic participation in Moscow. That graduating class became "Tomorrow's Champions" on NBC. In principle, it was as if Donald Curry, Johnny Bumphus, and the rest had won medals.

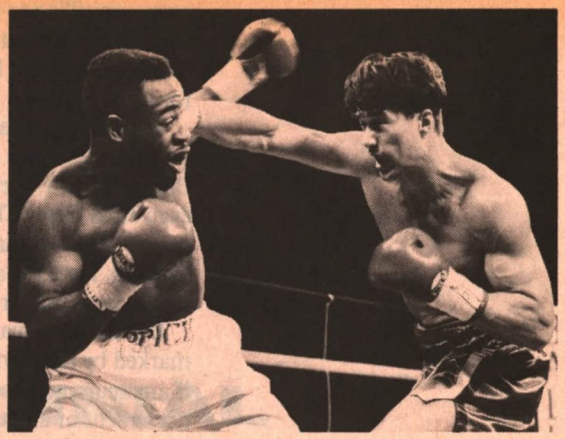
The new faces of 1992 will have been revealed on NBC by press time. Into the dark void, stars will shine. It would go against their nature for the networks to build such amateur stalwarts as Oscar De La Hoya, Raul Marquez, and Eric Griffin into overnight sensations and let them disappear again.

NBC, which will televise the Barcelona Games, will no longer stand for "No Boxing Company." It will have the inside track on the Class of '92. But be sure that ABC and CBS wouldn't mind grabbing a golden ring or two, just to be competitive. The Olympics is a cleansing action. Boxing will begin to boom again. New stars will appear, and there will be exposure at last for some of the established names. Pay-per-view, which was supposed to replace closed-circuit television for the superfights, and not the networks for such matchups as Michael Moorer-Bert Cooper, will begin to be profitable, as audiences will become more and more familiar with boxers on this side of 40. It is inevitable.

It is just as inevitable that the heavyweight title will become fragmented, that politics will again make more headlines than fights, and that corruption and greed will feed the sewers until they overflow, again creating an abyss.

And in 1996, amateur boxing will again come to the rescue. ■

New Faces



Kelp crushes Maurice Brantley

Skipper Kelp

Welterweight

By Joseph C. Tintle

The way "Saigon" Skipper Kelp sees it, a boxing ring is far safer than a bunker. Kelp was two years old when, in 1972, he was almost killed by enemy fire in his native South Vietnam.

Kelp, whose full name is Nguyn Din Taun Kelp, said that his father often tells of how they were trapped for hours inside a bunker while bombs and mortar shells exploded around them.

"I've tried to remember those moments, but nothing comes back to me," said the fighter, who, in October 1970, was born to a U.S. Army sergeant and his Vietnamese wife in Saigon. "The way my dad recalls it, I was playing with metal fragments and laughing while the explosions were going off. I'm told that someday I can expect a flashback, because you don't go through a traumatic event without some kind of effect. But so far, I'm okay."

In 1973, Sgt. Bruce Kelp, whose tour of duty in Vietnam lasted 6½ years, returned to the United States. Six months later, he was joined by his wife Dao, Skipper, and daughters Thuy and Tammy. For the next few years, they lived on countless Army bases in America and Germany.

By age 10, Skipper, a physically precocious youngster, had established himself as a black belt champion in Tae Kwon Do and four other martial arts disciplines. In fact, he was so good that he taught the U.S. troops in Germany.

"I like to think I could've kicked Jean Claude Van Damme's butt," he said laughing. "Or anyone else's for that matter."

Inspired by the fearsome fists of Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Kelp turned to boxing at age 15. He won a pair of National Golden Gloves titles, and compiled an amateur mark of 100-12 (40). He would have been among the favorites to qualify for the 1992 U.S. Olympic team, but two years ago, feeling burned out in the amateurs, he turned pro.

His first fight came in December 1990. Since then, he's knocked out 12 of 14 opponents. Seven of those stoppages have come in the first round.

"I think my punching power comes from my years in the martial arts," Kelp said. "But it's not enough to have power in each fist if you don't know what to do with it. That's why I'm looking to go more to the body in my fights, instead of just the head."

Kelp's fight with Fernando Rodriguez was the clincher. He landed bone-jarring punches to his opponent's face, but was still forced to go the distance.

"I dropped him once," Kelp recalled, "but just like Jason in *Friday The 13th*, he got up and kept coming after me. I'm sure I would've stopped him had I gone to the body."

If Kelp needed further proof, he got it from sparring with former WBA middleweight champion Mike "The Body Snatcher" McCallum.

"Even though Mike was wearing 16-ounce gloves, he really hurt me," said Kelp. "Oh, man, I can only imagine what those blows might've felt like if he'd worn smaller gloves. As it was, they *hurt*. That's why I find it hard to believe

(Continued on page 65)

PRO RECORD

1990		
Dec. 20	Miguel Lopez, Las Vegas	KO 1
1991		
Jan. 18	Eddie Rios, Las Vegas	KO 1
Feb. 17	Rene Herrera, Las Vegas	KO 3
March 17	Silvano Zavala, Las Vegas	KO 3
April 7	Margarito Gonzalez, Las Vegas	KO 1
May 23	Samuel Rojo, Las Vegas	KO 1
June 29	Mohamed Benchikh, Las Vegas	KO 3
July 19	Jorge Pichardo, Las Vegas	KO 1
Sept. 20	Mario Lopez, Scottsdale, AZ	KO 4
Oct. 10	Ismail Tillis, Las Vegas	Tech. Draw 3
Dec. 26	Maurice Brantley, Las Vegas	KO 1
1992		
Feb. 16	Steven Barreras, Las Vegas	KO 6
March 15	Fernando Rodriguez, Las Vegas	W 8
May 21	Alberto Alcaraz, Las Vegas	KO 1

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
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Photos By Chris Farina

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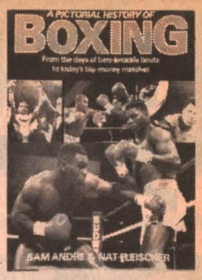

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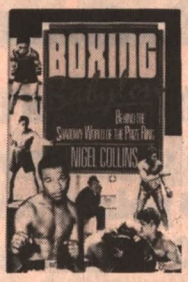

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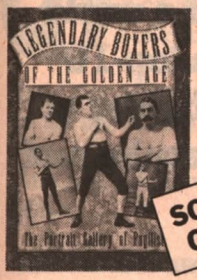

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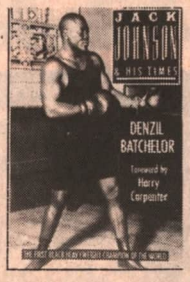

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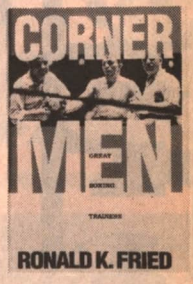

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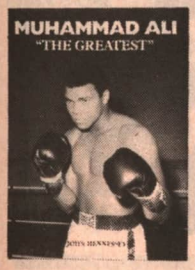

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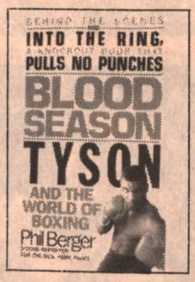

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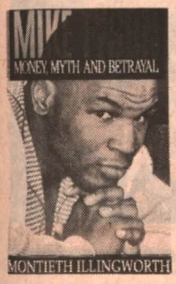

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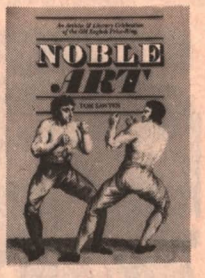

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EXCLUSIVE RING'S

PHOTO QUIZ

Test Your Boxing IQ

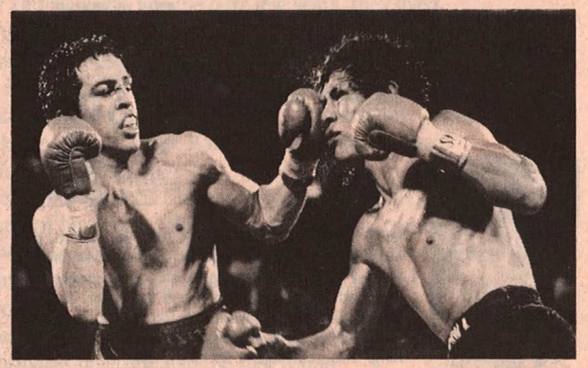
Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

1

We're not 100 percent sure, but we think that Muhammad Ali has been photographed with every single champion in boxing history. "The Greatest's" mate in this shot wasn't so bad himself. In fact, like Ali, he was once the heavyweight champion of the world.

2

Whatever happened to the multifight grudges that spiced boxing for so many years? In the '70s and '80s, these two rivals fought four times. And, as the TV announcers were always quick to tell us, they really didn't like each other.



3

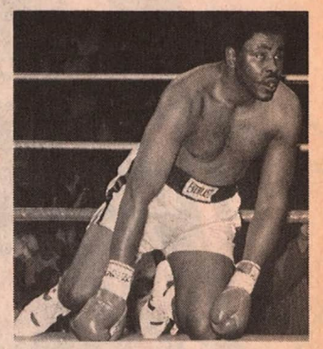
No, we're not going to ask you to name the dancers. (The caption of this wire service photo identifies the woman on the far right as Madame X.) But what about the world bantamweight champion who seems confused by it all?

4

This featherweight champion is en route to Rome for a title defense that will turn out to be the last fight of his career. A hint: He was Australia's third world titlist.

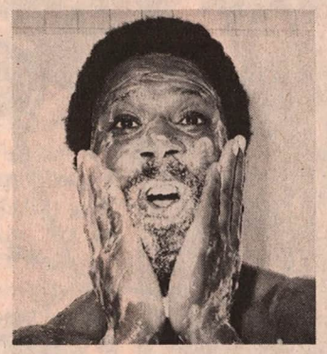
5

Where am I? Who am I? *Why* am I? Such humbling moments can make a fighter forget everything. Even a former heavyweight champion like this one.



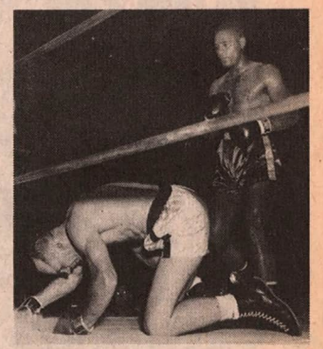
6

Imagine facing the power of George Foreman. And Gerry Cooney. And Earnie Shavers. This heavyweight fought them all. He was once in trouble with the law, but as you can see, he cleaned up his act.



7

Our obligatory Ali-opponent photo: This heavyweight, shown kayoing Pete Rademacher in 1958, got his shot at then-champion Ali more than *10* years after being rated number-one.



8

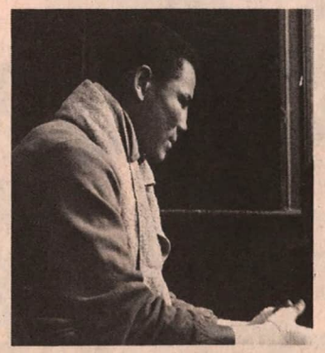
This former world champion, who loved snakes, fought like a cobra. He reigned in the '70s, and rattled off no less than 10 successful defenses.

9

Good Thai fighters don't usually grow as big as 140 pounds. This slugger was an exception. In the mid-'70s, he won a share of the world title in his *third* pro fight.

10

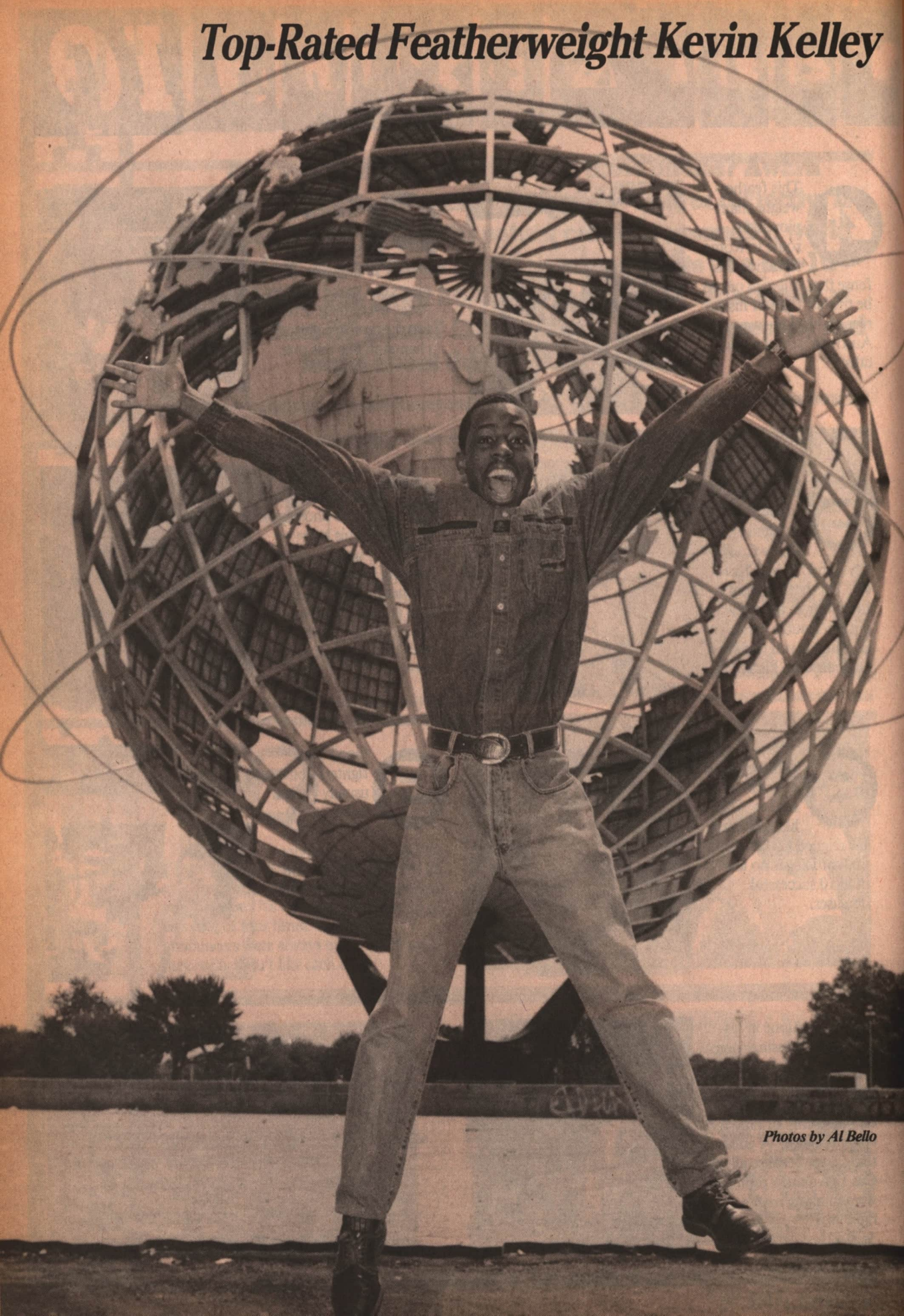
Alone in his dressing room before a bout, this future world champion had plenty of time for contemplation. A good thing, too, because all of Cus D'Amato's proteges were thinking man's fighters.



ANSWERS:

1) Gene Tunney; 2) Bobby Chacon & Bazooka Limon; 3) Lionel Rose; 4) Johnny Famechon; 5) Greg Page; 6) Ron Lyle; 7) Zora Folley; 8) Alfredo Escalera; 9) Saensak Muangsurin; 10) Jose Torres

Top-Rated Featherweight Kevin Kelley



Photos by Al Bello

AFTER CONQUERING THE WORLD, HE WANTS TO CONQUER . . . FLUSHING?

By Jeff Ryan

That Flushing sound you hear is not the sound of a sport devoid of colorful personalities, diluted by phony titles, and poisoned by corruption going straight down the toilet. No, it's the refreshing sound of Kevin Kelley, a New York City featherweight who owns a record of 29-0 (21), the top spot in the WBA and WBC ratings, and an honorary doctorate in civics bestowed on him by none other than himself. Some talent, this kid. Breathtaking speed. Moves that defy the laws of physics. A non-stop attack that overwhelms. But enough about his mouth.

The 25-year-old Kelley is always at full-tilt, whether he's shooting a combo or shooting the breeze. He's so hyperactive, he could be the inspiration for the Sony *Runman*. Saying he can talk is like saying, "That Cher has an ego, eh?" He'll talk about anything, even the subject of his talking about anything. One topic, however, reigns supreme: Flushing.

He talks about it more often than the Tidy-Bowl Man. To the uninitiated—of which there are few when Kelley's around—Flushing is a section of Queens, one of the five boroughs that make up New York City. Flushing, you might say, epitomizes Queens. It is congested streets and towering apartment buildings, but also one-family homes with barbecues and azaleas. It is the city, with less crime than Manhattan, and it's the suburbs, with more graffiti than Long Island. Its official song is a

(Continued on page 65)

Kelley proved he was New York City-tough when he gutted his way to a 12-round victory over Troy Dorsey in February (above). Typically, he celebrated with an abundance of energy (left).

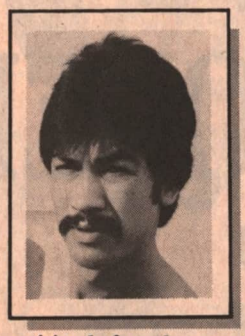
BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

WELTERWEIGHTS

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.

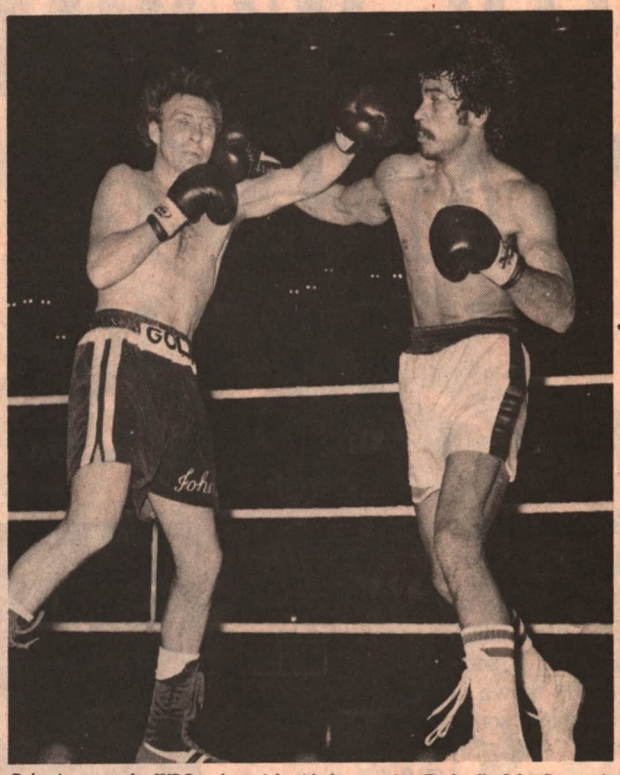
Carlos Palomino

Westminster, California
Career: 1972-1979
28-3-3 with 16 kayos



One of the few world champions to hold a college degree, Palomino displayed intelligence both in and out of the ring. He set two boxing goals and achieved both, winning a world title by scoring a 12th-round stoppage of WBC welterweight champion John Stracey in June 1976, and retiring before the age of 30 after losing on points to Roberto Duran in June 1979.

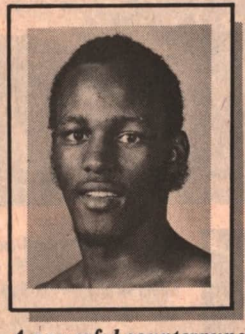
In between, he made seven successful defenses and established himself as a consistent and well-rounded champion. There were slicker 147-pounders, like Wilfred Benitez, who dethroned Palomino in January 1979, and bigger hitters, like WBA champion Pipino Cuevas. But Palomino beat the best of the rest, including Dave Boy Green and Mando Muniz (twice), by featuring a potent left hook, exceptional stamina, and—always—his ring smarts.



Palomino won the WBC welterweight title by stopping England's John Stracey in June 1976. It was his 23rd pro bout, and his first outside of California.

Donald Curry

Ft. Worth, Texas
Career: 1980-1991
33-5 with 24 kayos



During his 3½-year reign as welterweight champion, Curry unified the crown and briefly held the unofficial title as boxing's best fighter. His prime, however, was painfully short.

Curry was a member of the 1980 Olympic team, but didn't compete because of the U.S. boycott. A powerful counterpuncher and master of defense, he outclassed his first 15 foes, and, in February 1983, captured the vacant WBA title by outpointing Jun Sok Hwang. After impressive defenses vs. Roger Stafford, Marlon Starling, Elio Diaz, Nino LaRocca, and Colin Jones, "The Lone Star Cobra" destroyed WBC titlist Milton McCrory in two rounds. Two defenses later, he was shocked by Lloyd Honeyghan, who stopped him in six rounds in September 1986.

Curry went on to win the WBC super welterweight title, but never fully regained his form. He retired after a June 1991 loss to Terry Norris.

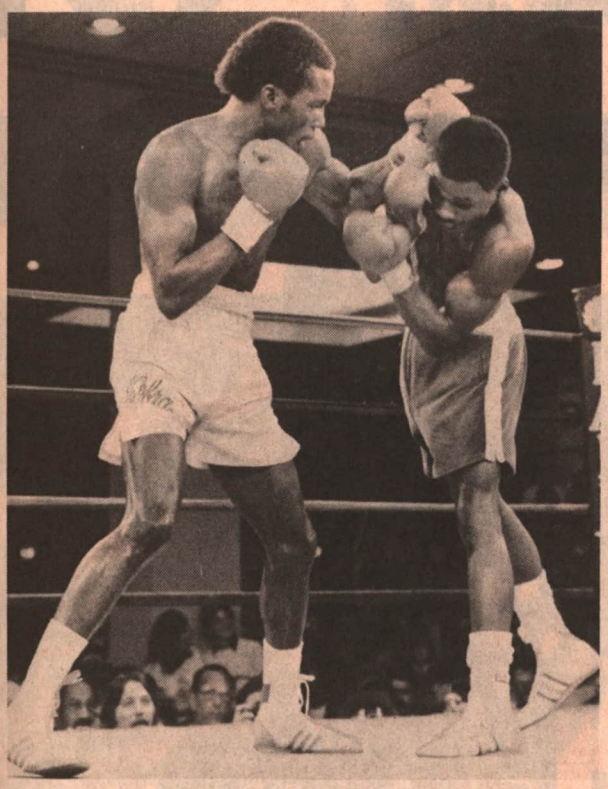
JIMMY LENNON JR.

This is certainly a matchup that would please the crowd. Both men fought at the championship level for a number of years, and were particularly poised in the ring. Curry had a good jab and right hand. His power was impressive, especially against Milton McCrory. But even though he outpointed Marlon Starling twice, he was never really challenged by a good fighter.

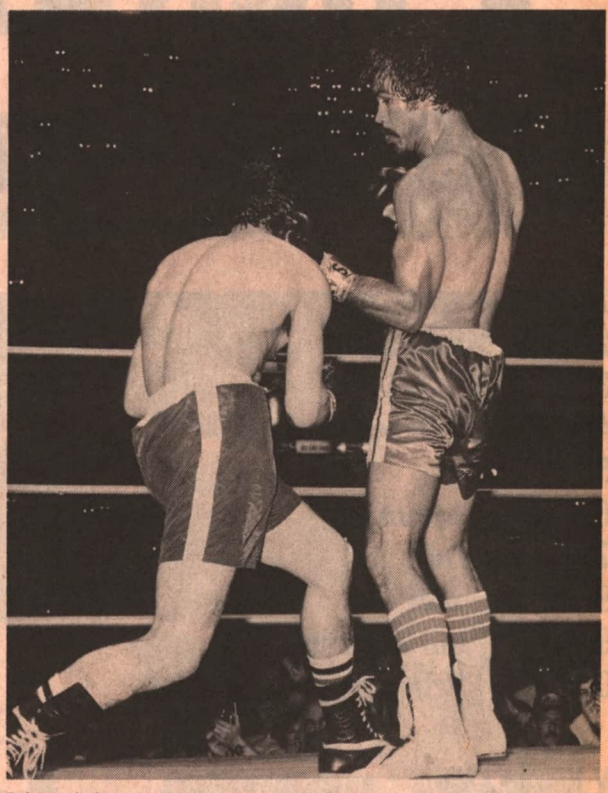
Palomino excelled on the inside. He was strong, both physically and mentally. That strength, combined with his determination and ability to take a good punch, made him hard to beat.

I see Curry using his boxing skills and speed to take an early lead. Palomino lost his last two fights to superior boxers, Wilfred Benitez and Roberto Duran. But Curry was not in their league. Palomino would start to come on in the middle rounds with his superior body attack. He would smother Curry on the inside, wear him down, and score an 11th- or 12th- round kayo.

Jimmy Lennon Jr. is one of boxing's top ring announcers.



Curry established himself as one of boxing's finest champions in February 1984, when he retained the WBA welterweight crown by defeating Marlon Starling.

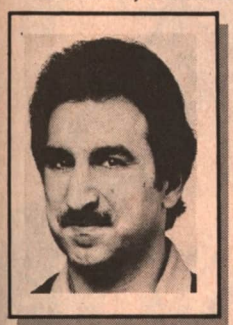


Palomino's first title defense was among his toughest. In January 1977, he stopped the rugged Mando Muniz with 36 seconds left in the 15th and final round.

JOHN BEYROOTY

This is a very tough fight to pick. Although both guys had a lot of skills, Curry possessed more natural talent. He was faster, and moved better. In terms of what he accomplished, you'd have to say that he was an underachiever. He came along right after Ray Leonard, and he was expected to be another Sugar Ray.

Palomino, on the other hand, was an overachiever.



He was a good athlete who didn't start boxing until in his 20s. But he had great determination, stamina, and strength. Like most Mexican fighters, he had that great hook to the body. His body attack and his conditioning helped him out in 15-round fights.

Curry would start quick and build an early lead. There would be some great exchanges, but Curry wouldn't have the firepower to keep Palomino off him. Palomino would come on in the middle rounds and start to sap Curry's strength with body shots. I see Palomino, behind on points, catching up to Curry and stopping him in the 14th or 15th round.

John Beyrooty is a publicist at the Great Western Forum, and a former boxing writer for the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner.

JOE SAYATOVICH

Both of these guys were very good fighters, but when they were champions, the level of their competition differed. Curry beat better fighters. I feel that when Curry was at his best, he was as good as Ray Leonard and Marvin Hagler. He was a good thinking fighter, he was an excellent counterpuncher, he had good hand speed, he hit hard with both hands, and he made his opponents pay for their mistakes.

Palomino's best assets were his ring generalship and his athletic skills. His power, however, was not that impressive. He was billed as a boxer-puncher, but his knockouts, when he was champion, usually came late in his fights.

I see Palomino trying to stay on top of Curry, and forcing exchanges on the inside. Curry would stay away, picking his spots, and scoring with hard counterpunches. As the fight would progress, Curry would gain the upper hand. He'd score well to the head and body, and be in total command by the middle rounds. He'd stop Palomino in the seventh or eighth round. ■

Joe Sayatovich is the manager of WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris.

The Best Of A Nation

THIS MONTH: SOUTH AFRICA

1. Vic Toweel
2. Brian Mitchell
3. Willie Toweel
4. Gerrie Coetzee
5. Jack Lalor
6. Laurie Stevens
7. Jake N'Tuli
8. Willie Smith
9. Johnny van Rensburg
10. Enoch "Schoolboy" Nhlapo

By Ron Jackson

Vic Toweel is my number one. He lost only two of 300 amateur bouts, and with only 14 bouts of pro experience, was crowned world bantamweight titlist after defeating the outstanding Manuel Ortiz. At the time (1950), there were only eight divisions, and no multiple champions. Toweel remains the only South African to receive universal recognition as a world champion.

● Based on statistics alone, **Brian Mitchell** must be rated highly on any list. He won the WBA junior lightweight title in September 1986, and made a division record 11 defenses before vacating. In September 1991, he became the first South African to hold two versions of a world title by dethroning IBF champion Tony Lopez.

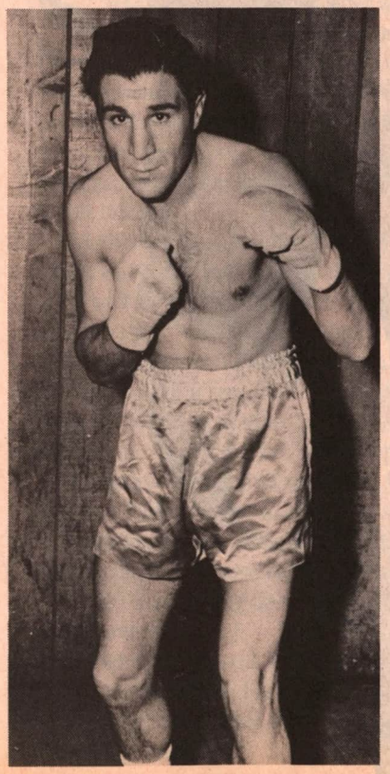
● In both style and temperament, **Willie Toweel** bore little resemblance to his brother Vic. When he felt so inclined, Willie could box with flawless perfection. He won national titles at bantamweight, featherweight, lightweight, and welterweight. In September 1955, he challenged world bantamweight champion Robert Cohen and received a disputed draw. He went on to win the Empire lightweight crown, and was most unfortunate not to secure a crack at world champion Joe Brown.

● **Gerrie Coetzee** won the WBA heavyweight title in his third try, stopping Michael Dokes in September 1983. He fought all the top contenders, but proved to be the great enigma of South African boxing. He was a talented heavyweight, but he appeared to lack dedication. He was also hampered by a series of hand injuries.

● A fast mover and solid puncher, the superbly conditioned **Jack Lalor** won three national titles. Fighting at the turn of the century, he survived 23 years in the ring and, though never more than a welterweight, won the South African heavyweight crown at age 43.

Who was the best British fighter of all-time? The best Mexican? The best Japanese? The debate will rage forever. In an attempt to fuel the fire, or at least offer some perspective, *The Ring* has asked several of its correspondents to compile their personal top-10 lists.

In recent years, junior lightweight Brian Mitchell (above left vs. archrival Tony Lopez), and heavyweight Gerrie Coetzee (above right vs. Michael Dokes), have been among the most successful South African boxers. The best of them all was bantamweight Vic Toweel (opposite page). Rated close behind was his brother Willie (below left).



● **Laurie Stevens** won the lightweight gold medal at the 1932 Olympic Games, then fought the best available competition as a pro. In 1936, he won the British and Empire lightweight title from Jack "Kid" Berg, and, in 1937, he lost a terrific non-title bout to featherweight champion Petey Sarron. After being stopped by Sarron, he was never the same.

● In 1952, **Jake N'Tuli,** then an unknown, scored a major upset by beating Teddy Gardener for the British and Empire flyweight title. He was subsequently ranked number-one by *The Ring*, but was ignored by world champion Yoshio Shirai. He also fought some great battles at bantamweight vs. the likes of Robert Cohen and Peter Keenan.

● Arguably the country's most scientific fighter, **Willie Smith** won an Olympic gold medal in 1924, and defeated Englishman Teddy Baldock for the British version of the world bantamweight title in 1927. Smith's victory was so overwhelming that he was instantly hailed as a master boxer and one of the greatest bantamweights in the world.

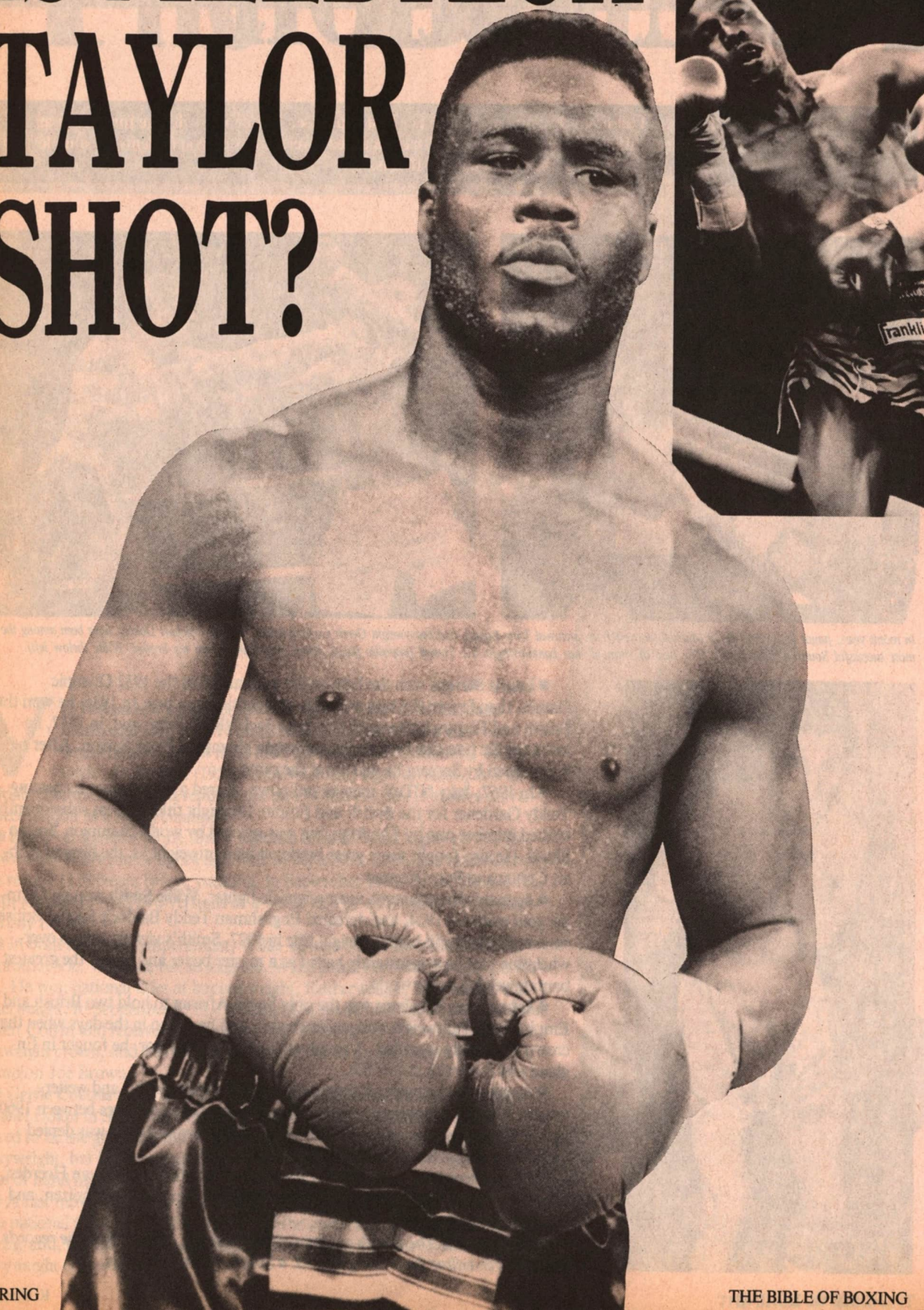
● **Johnny van Rensburg** was the only South African to hold two British and Empire titles (lightweight and welterweight), and he did so in the days when that crown was highly regarded. A rough and merciless operator, he fought in England and Australia in the '50s.

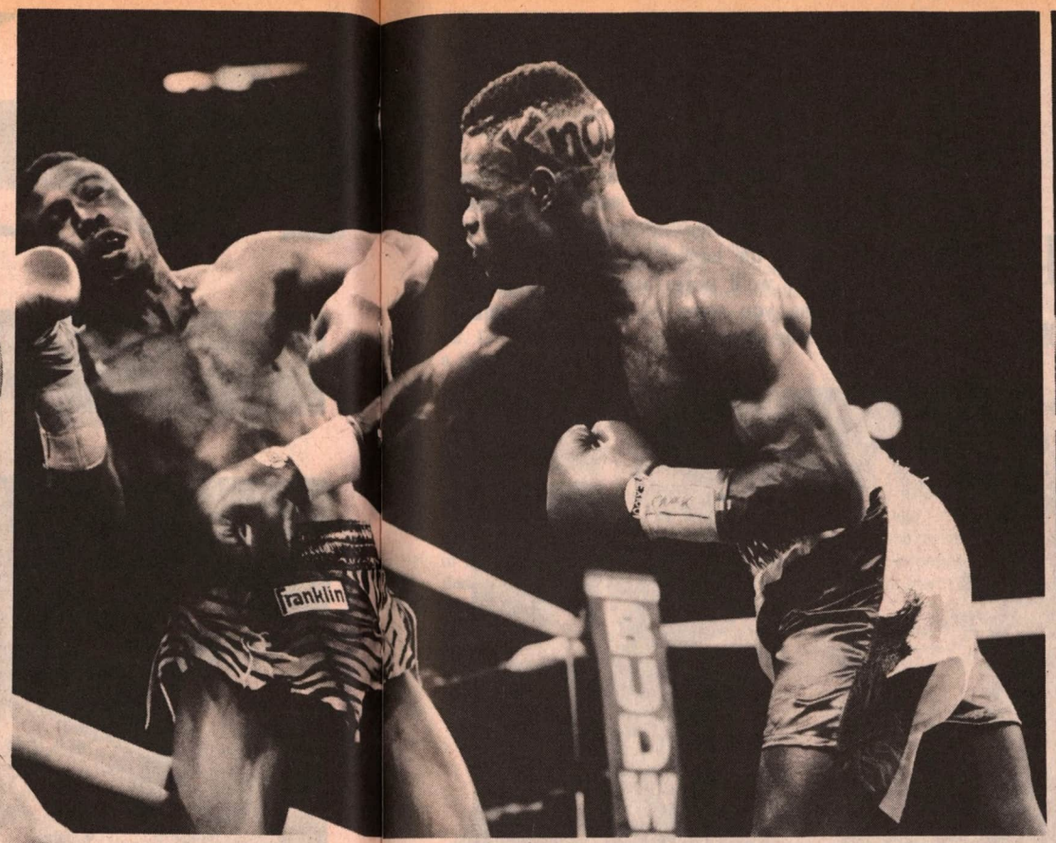
● A national champion at lightweight, junior welterweight, and welterweight, **Enoch "Schoolboy" Nhlapo** fought more than 100 times between 1960 and 1973. A most popular performer in the black townships, he was denied world recognition because of racial prejudice.

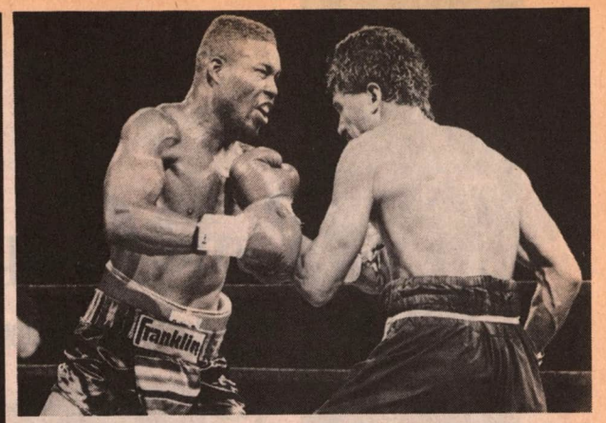
Other fighters who were strong contenders for a rating: Hottie van Heerden, Charlie Catteral, Elijah Mokone, Arthur Douglas, Bennie Niewenhuizen, and Pierre Fourie. ■

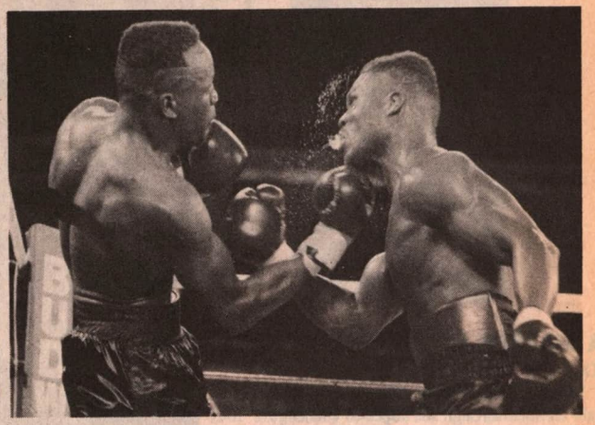
Ron Jackson is The Ring's correspondent in South Africa. He is the records and research editor for Boxing World, a South African monthly.

IS MELDRICK TAYLOR SHOT?









After Taylor lasted only four rounds against WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris (left), the whispers began: Was he shot? In June 1991, the WBA welterweight champion's chin held up against Venezuela's Luis Garcia, but he struggled nonetheless (top right). He also managed to defeat Glenwood Brown in November, but not before absorbing several big shots (bottom right) and twice climbing off the canvas. Taylor remains a champion. Even at age 25, however, his future is clouded.

By Robert Cassidy

S-H-O-T. No other four-letter word is more damaging to a fighter's ego, career, or earning potential. It is an insult of the highest order—and the worst kind. To insinuate that a fighter is shot is to suggest that he is no longer viable. In essence, he is impotent.

WBA welterweight champion Meldrick Taylor is a proud fighter, and may someday go down in history as a great fighter. But these days, there is temptation to think of him as a shot fighter. In May, he was knocked out by WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris. In itself, a loss to Norris is not a disgrace. Combine that fight, however, with Taylor's two previous title fights, and the implications that the quick-fisted Philly dynamo isn't what he used to be are not unfounded. And that has people talking.

"My honest opinion is that he should retire before he seriously gets hurt," said Glenwood Brown, who lost a decision to Taylor earlier this year. "He's taking a lot of punches. He's been in war after war after war."

"It's all over for him," said Al Braverman, the director of boxing for Don King Productions.

"He's shot," said Al Certo, Buddy McGirt's manager. "Shot."

That word stings Taylor worse than any punch ever could. Being considered a great fighter has always been important to him, and Taylor is sensitive to public perception. Throughout his career, he has consistently taken steps to achieve top-shelf status in boxing, steps other fighters have been afraid to take. Taylor, who has met every challenge head-on, is now faced with another one: He must try to erase the perception that he is a fighter in decline. If he can.

"I welcome the doomsayers," said Joe Cardona, Taylor's attorney. "Because they are going to be quelled. The greatness of Meldrick Taylor has yet to manifest itself."

Taylor has already demonstrated the traits of a great fighter. And that is why, after getting soundly defeated by Norris, he is being questioned so severely. If Taylor had not achieved so much so soon, the expectations would not be so high.

"I can't start getting discouraged," he said. "The reaction I've gotten from people is that I'm still champ. I can come back and be greater."

The whispers started after Taylor's heartbreaking last-second loss to Julio Cesar Chavez in 1990. Against Chavez, Taylor was brilliant. He was beating the mighty Mexican in every facet of the fight. But his success did not come without a price; Taylor suffered a blowout fracture of his left orbital bone and swallowed two pints of his

(Continued on page 58)

Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

With files of more than three million black-and-white and color negatives, *The Ring* magazine photo collection is by far the largest in the world. Each issue, we'll pore through the files to bring you some of the most unique boxing photographs ever taken

TRAINING FOR GREB—THE WALKER WAY

(June 26, 1925)

It was only six days before he was to try to knock Harry Greb off his middleweight throne when this picture of Mickey Walker was snapped at his Summit, New Jersey, training camp. When the picture appeared the next day on the back page of *The New York Daily Mirror*, a prominent bookie huffed, "That ain't no way to train to fight Harry Greb." The odds on Mickey rose from 3-1 to 4½-1.

Were the oddsmakers right or wrong? Judge for yourself: Champion Greb hammered Walker throughout the 15 rounds and romped to an easy title-saving decision.

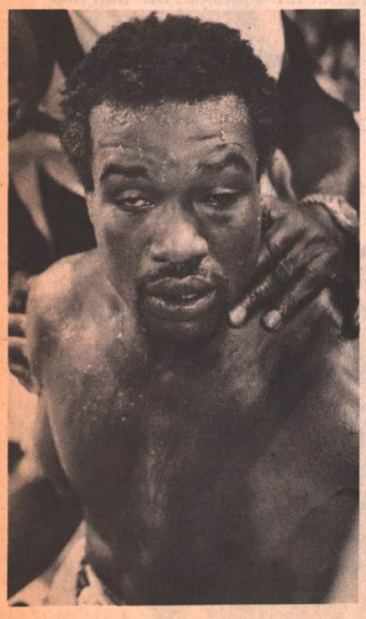
A MATTER OF FOCUS

(December 5, 1986)

When Uganda's John "The Beast" Mugabi climbed through the ropes to challenge middleweight champion Marvelous Marvin Hagler, he was, with 25 kayos in 25 fights, the most feared fighter in boxing. But Hagler kept the title by 11th-round stoppage, and by the time Mugabi faced Duane Thomas, much of his mystique was gone. Still, he was a prohibitive favorite to defeat the Kronk fighter and win the vacant WBC super welterweight crown.

But it wasn't to be. After taking what he claimed was a thumb in the eye, Mugabi timidly turned his back on Thomas in the third round. Referee Carlos Padilla was left with no choice but to stop the fight.

Mugabi's eyes say it all: The Beast had been tamed.



BELT IT OUT, GRACIE

(March 6, 1940)

Britain's most popular entertainer, Gracie Fields, adjusts the *Ring* championship belt around the waist of another English idol, newly crowned flyweight champion Peter Kane, at a formal banquet in war-torn London.

Ring Publisher Nat Fleischer was refused U.S. War Department permission to cross the Atlantic and personally make the presentation; he was told that such a trip would be too dangerous. But permission was granted to fly the precious momento to an RAF air base in Southern England aboard a special U.S. courier plane.

Shortly after the formal ceremony was begun at London's Cafe Royale, Nazi bombers struck. But the show went on, with old pro Gracie wowing the black-tie crowd with her side-splitting comic routines.

Kane held the title almost five years, until 1943. He always called the night he was belted by Gracie Fields "one of the highlights of my career."

RECOVERING A TREASURE

(Circa 1920)

Rarely does a week pass that *The Ring* doesn't receive a request from somewhere in the world for a picture of a former boxer. A Hollywood studio, an Australian newspaper, a TV network, a family member, an old Army buddy; it seems that just about everybody has either a personal connection with the sport, or needs something for commercial purposes.

One common request is for a photo of Victor McLaglen, the fabled Irishman who not only won the Academy Award for best actor for his incredible performance in the film classic *The Informer*, but who also faced heavyweight champion Jack Johnson.

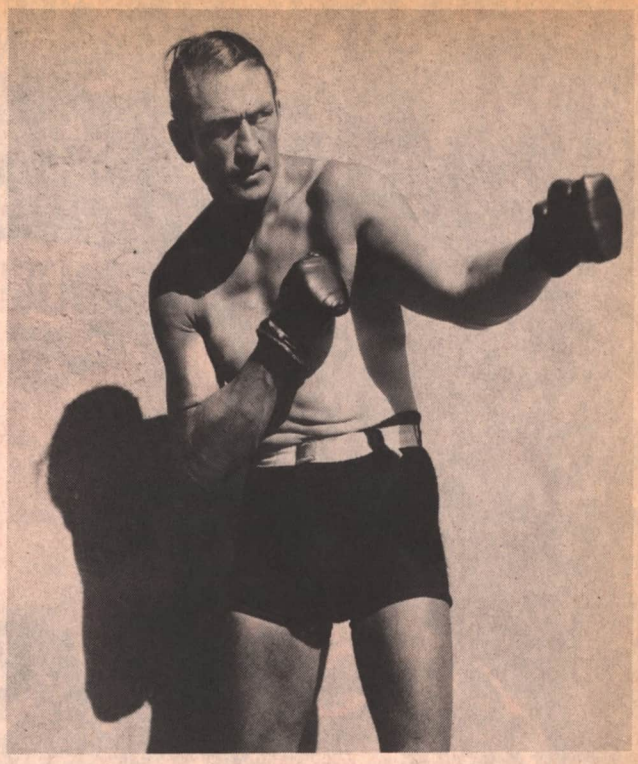
On March 10, 1909, less than three months after he won the crown from Tommy Burns, Johnson met the 24-year-old McLaglen in Vancouver, British Columbia. At the end of six rounds of a fairly even match, a no-decision was declared.

Johnson recalled the bout many years later: "I remember he was very, very strong. His jab was to the mark, and he used to it make an opening for his right, which, while dangerous, was not threatening because I knew it was coming, and could slip it or block it in plenty of time."

This picture of McLaglen, first published in *The Ring* in the early-1930s, was given up as lost until just a few months ago, when it suddenly reappeared, by sheer accident. While researching the picture file of light heavyweight champion Tommy Loughran, I was astonished to find, sandwiched between photos of Loughran's fights with Harry Greb and Primo Carnera, this magnificently detailed photo.

Upon examination, somebody long past had penciled in on the back of the picture "Loughran." The error is understandable—but also unforgivable.

Welcome home, Victor McLaglen.



HONORED GUESTS

(March 24, 1992)

More than 700 notables turned out for the 25th anniversary banquet of the prestigious Cauliflower Alley Club at The Sportsman's Lodge in Studio City, California. It was, in essence, a roll call of past, present, and future champions.

But the shining light of the evening was a legend who still walks with the brisk gait of a young contender, and shadowboxes, although admittedly for only about 30 seconds, with the enthusiasm of a Golden Glover. Everybody wanted to see Archie Moore, shake his hand, and thank him for all the glorious memories. In fact, the crush was about to get out of control when the club's energetic director, Art Abrams, ordered a reception line, like at the White House or Buckingham Palace.

Archie, seated alongside Dr. Marilyn G. Douroux, the author of his biography *Archie (The Ole Mongoose) Moore*, anchored the receiving end of the reception line, and they performed their roles of King and Queen with the same dignity as Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip.

I had the honor of standing next to Archie and Marilyn on that historic evening. And as everybody stood in the long receiving line with something in their hands for The Mongoose to autograph, I couldn't resist saying, 'Hey, Champ, do you know what your autograph goes for on the open market today?"

"The price of a bowl of grits," he said with a chuckle.

"Yeah," I said, "together with the price of a full-course dinner for four at *Tour-Agent* in Paris."

"That's one I never fought," replied Mr. Moore.

(To order Archie Moore's biography, see advertisement on page 17.)

BACKSTAGE AT STILLMAN'S

(Circa 1953)

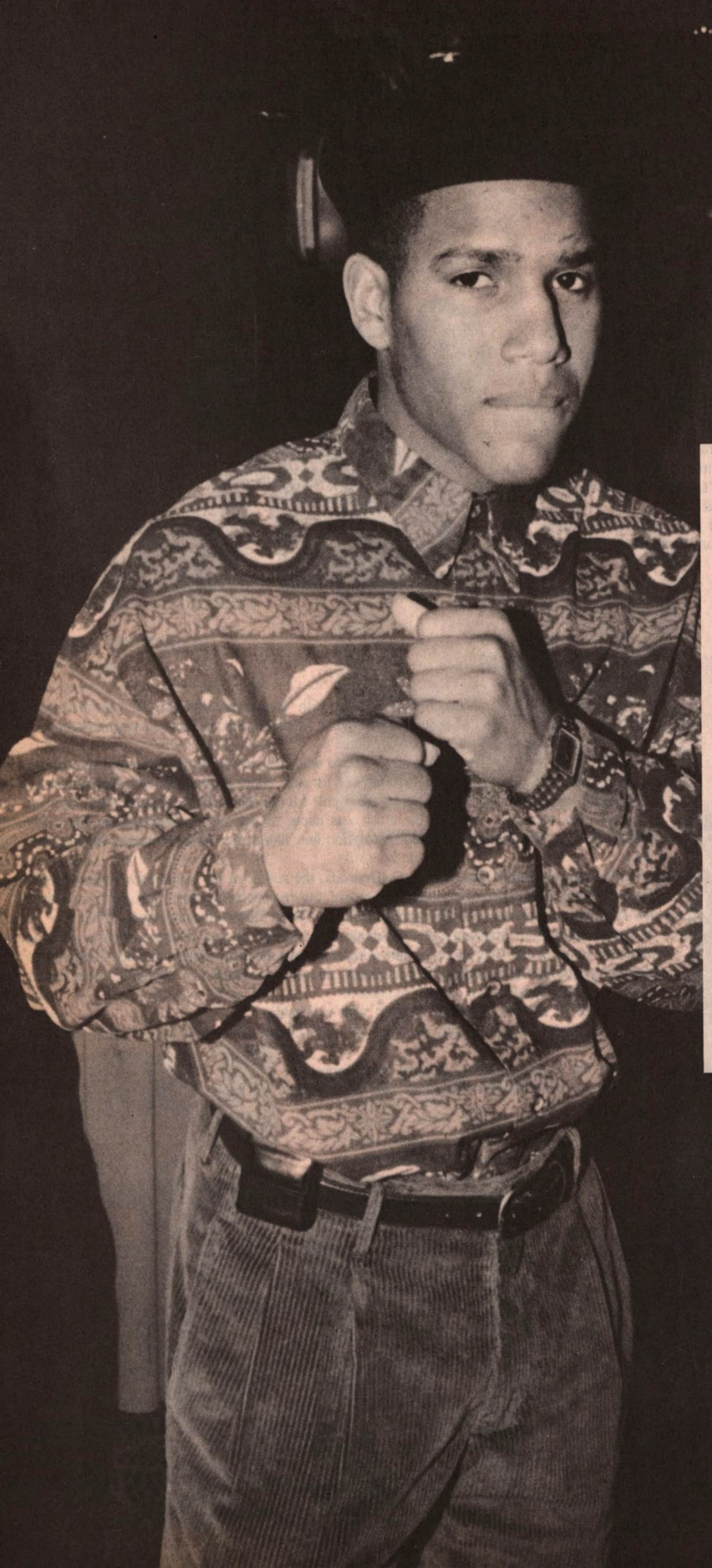
The cubicles called dressing rooms at famous Stillman's Gymnasium were only about four by six feet. And each was shared by as many as six boxers, each paying a monthly rental fee of about $15. There was no extra charge for that distinctive mixed aroma of sweat, liniment, and salami found only at Stillman's.

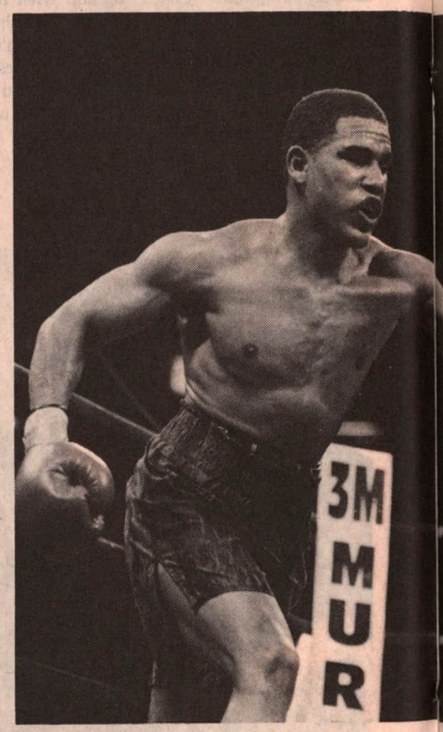
Two of the greatest trainers of all-time, Ray Arcel (left) and Whitey Bimstein, a clutter of well-worn, odorous underwear, sweat socks, trunks, and jockstraps dangling from above, examine training gloves to be used in the day's sparring sessions. This same dressing room had been used by immortals like Dempsey, Canzoneri, Ambers, Graziano, Apostoli, and even Primo Carnera.

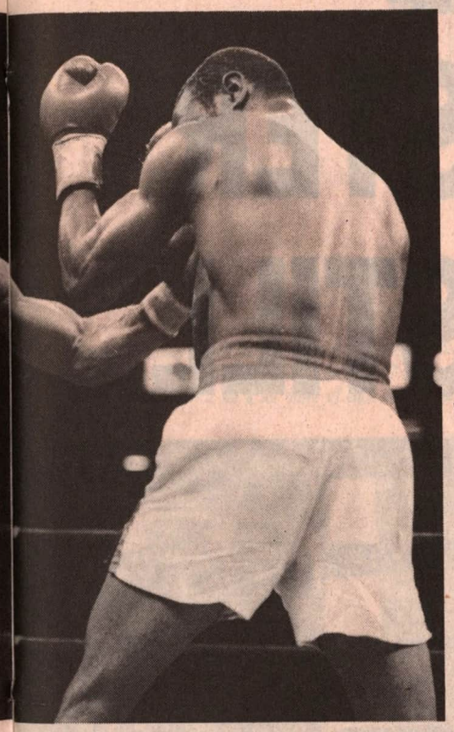
Not a single whiff of fresh air had ever been allowed to clear out the place from the day it was enclosed half a century before. So, in effect, you could say that while Dempsey is long gone, his body odor would have been forever preserved had the Grand Dame of boxing gymnasiums not fallen to the wrecker's ball in the '60s.

LIGHTWEIGHT CONTENDER SHARMBA MITCHELL

The Littlest Big Man On Campus







In April, Mitchell scored an impressive victory over former 130-pound champion Rocky Lockridge. The southpaw should receive a world title try before the year is out.

Photos By Al Bello

By John Scheinman

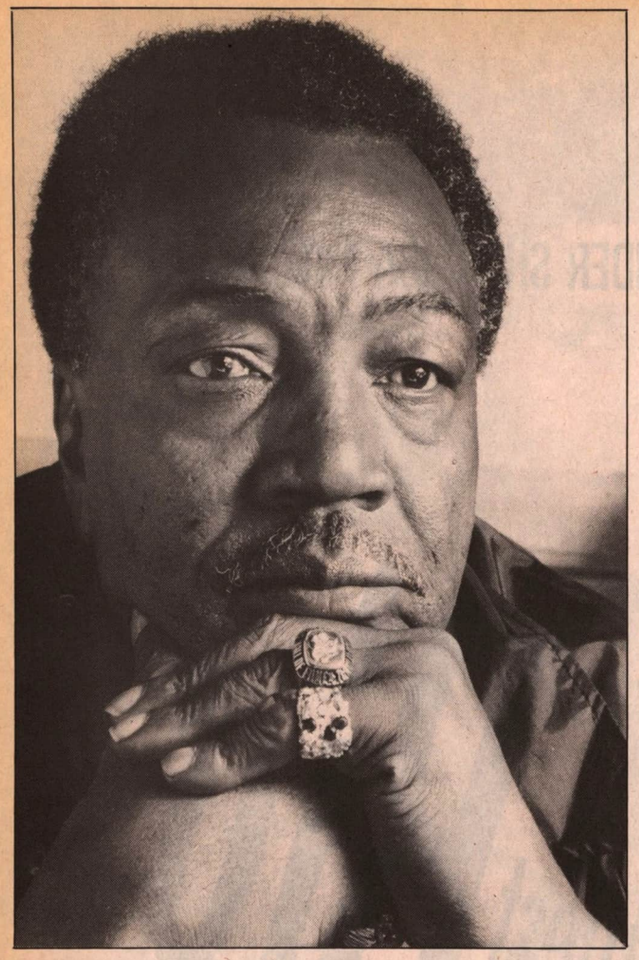
More than any other sport, boxing is a hurry-up-and-wait game. All kinds of politics can turn the sweet promise and expectation of a title shot sour, and a fighter on the brink can end up spending some serious time on the sidelines.

It can be excruciating—not to mention boring—but it's the nature of the sweet science. And it doesn't help that champions just don't get it on as often as they used to.

Lightweight contender Sharmba Mitchell is 21 years old. Even in boxing, where youth is at a premium, he's just a puppy. But for more than two years, title talk has swirled around him. A headline in the January 16, 1990, edition of the *Prince George's Journal,* the fighter's hometown paper, read "Mitchell Starting To Have Thoughts Of Championships."

At the time, he was still fighting eight-rounders.

Now Mitchell is 28-0 (16) and, to his dismay, is still fighting 10-rounders when there are three of Pernell Whitaker's old lightweight belts to be fought for. *(Continued on page 61)*



14 Years After Boxing

BOB FOSTER IS STILL LAYING DOWN THE LAW

Photos By Al Bello

By Joseph C. Tintle

Bob Foster's eyes darted in every direction as he scanned the grounds of the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York. He was searching for the van that would take him to the local airport.

"Over here, Bob," a loud voice beckoned.

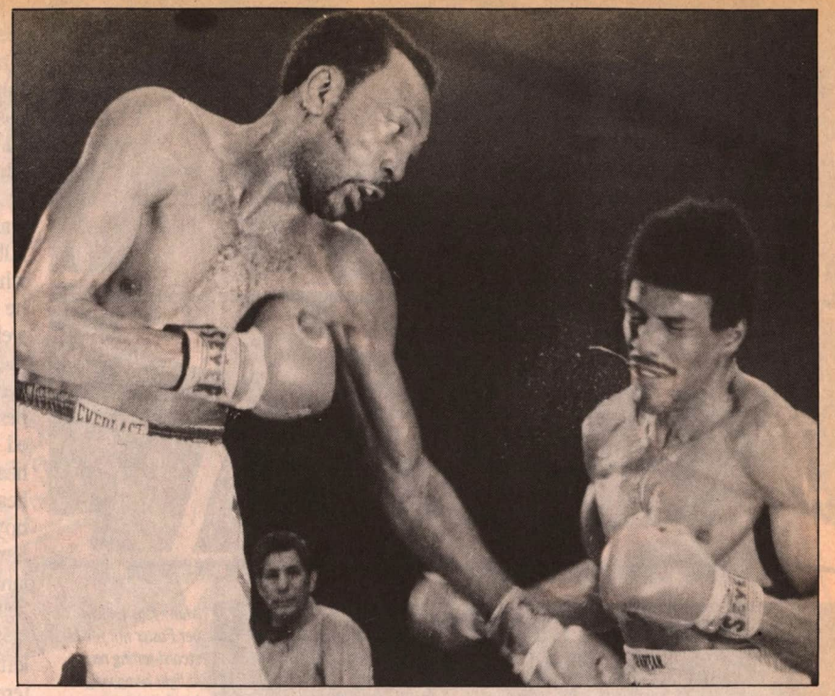
Foster craned his neck and spotted his driver.

"Sorry," Foster said to a group of autograph-seekers. "Got to go now. We're pickin' up my son."

The former world light heavyweight champion climbed into the van and settled back for the half-hour ride to Syracuse. His stomach fluttered from nerves, and a sudden jab of red-hot memory filled his mind as he recalled how his son laughed and talked when they last saw one another. That had been 17 years ago.

Foster, a deputy sheriff in New Mexico, was recently reunited with his son Bob Jr., whom he hadn't seen in 17 years. "Now that we're together, we'll see a lot more of each other," he promised.

One of the few 175-pounders who extended Foster to the 15-round limit was Ray Anderson. Foster scored a unanimous decision over the Ohioan in April 1971.



After the van reached its destination, Foster approached his 34-year-old son, and the two of them stood entranced like night moths drawn to a light. Awkwardness, and perhaps a degree of shame, gripped them both. But a moment later, they locked in a bearhug embrace.

"I missed you, Dad," said Bob Jr., his voice cracking.

"Same here, son."

When the Fosters returned to Canastota, Bob gave his son a personal tour of the Hall of Fame, of which he has been a member since 1990.

"My kids think it's so cool that you're a world champion," Bob Jr. said as he studied his father's plaque. At that moment, Papa Foster looked every bit as proud as the day he was inducted.

"Seventeen years is a long time for a father and a son to be apart," he later told *The Ring*. "But now that we're together, we'll see a lot more of each other."

"It's not like we weren't in touch over the years," said Bob Jr., a mason in York, Pennsylvania. "We'd phone one another. But when my father and my mother divorced [in 1975], I went to live with Mom in Pennsylvania. Dad stayed behind in New Mexico. It's not like he and I had a serious falling out. We just never got together. That's going to change, though. Dad's coming to my house to visit his grandsons. He's never met them, and he's really looking forward to it."

Bob Foster lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is a deputy sheriff with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department.

"I've always been a law-and-order guy," he said. "So the job's perfect for me."

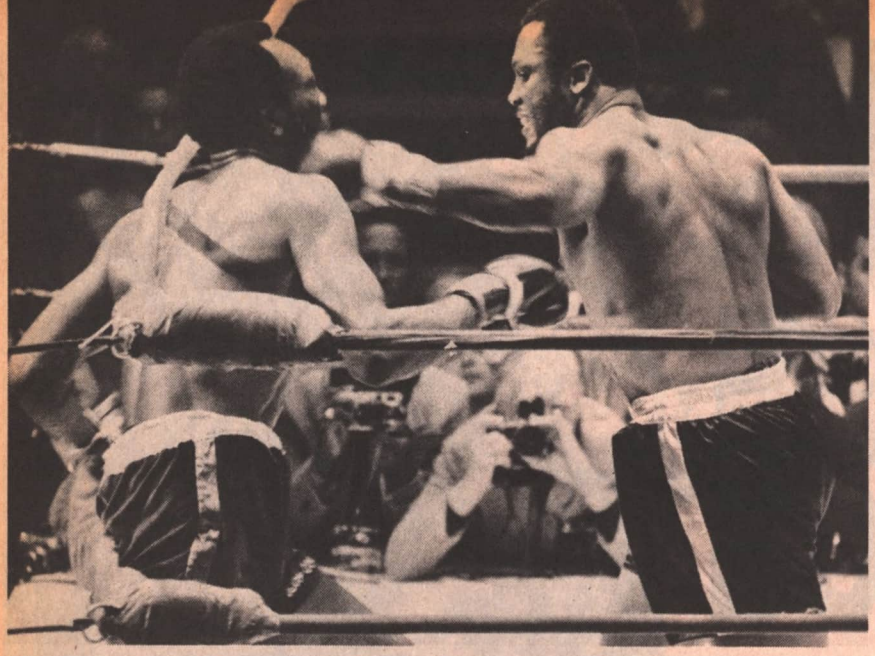
A lawman since 1971, he has never been shot, but he's been shot at. And, as one burglar found out, he can be as accurate with a gun as he was with a punch.

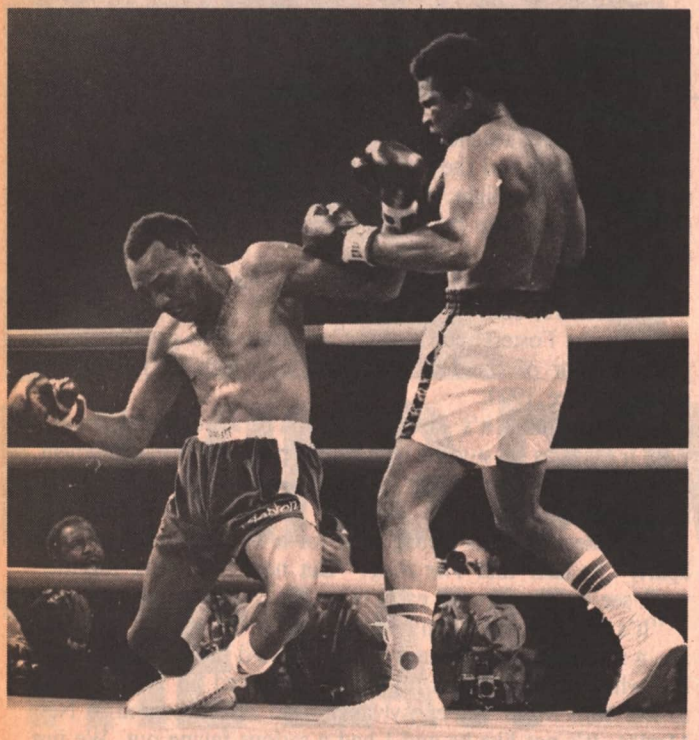
"I told this one guy to freeze," Foster recalled. "Instead, he pulled a .22 on me and fired away. But he missed."

Foster didn't. He returned fire with a sawed-off shotgun, and the blast ripped off the burglar's arm. As the man lay screaming in a pool of blood, Foster's eyes looked wildcat crazy.

"It freaked me out," he admitted. "But believe it or not, after a while on the job, you get used to sights like that."

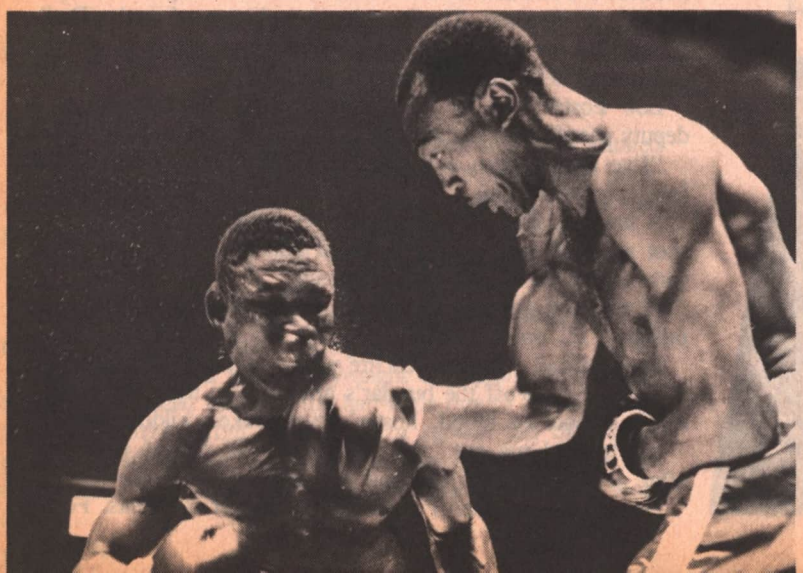
Being a deputy sheriff does have its lighter moments. Foster





Many fans remember Foster not for his record-setting reign at light heavyweight, but for stoppage losses at heavyweight to Joe Frazier (above) and Muhammad Ali (left).

Foster's power could turn a fighter's face to putty, as witnessed by his May 1968 title-winning performance vs. Dick Tiger.



recalled chasing down a speeder and writing out a ticket. He handed it to the driver. Instead of making an excuse, the motorist smiled and said, "Hey, you're Bob Foster, the fighter. Thanks for the autograph."

According to Foster, the incident was an abberation; he insists that in Albuquerque, practically no one knows who he is. But that all changed when he arrived in Canastota. There, he is a well-known and highly regarded former championship prize fighter. Wherever he and his son went, Foster was besieged by fans. They not only wanted to discuss his triumphs at light heavyweight, but also his failures at heavyweight. Although boxing's big boys proved too much for Foster to handle, his fans remembered how valiantly he tried to become the first light heavyweight champion to win the heavyweight crown. But every time he left the 175-pound division, he got battered. Muhammad Ali knocked him down seven times before stopping him in the eighth round, and, in Foster's only title try, he was dismantled by Joe Frazier in just two rounds. Six of Foster's eight career losses were to heavyweights.

"I never got the chance to get going against Joe," Foster said. "And Ali, well, he was just so incredibly fast. I'd throw a punch and he'd be gone before it landed."

Interestingly, Foster was unimpressed when, in 1985, light heavyweight champion Michael Spinks made history by dethroning Larry Holmes.

"Look, I don't think Spinks beat Larry either time they fought," he said. "And beating Holmes was no big deal. He wasn't the smartest heavyweight in the world. Not like Ali. Hell, I thought Spinks was just a rich amateur. I never thought he could fight at all. I'd have kayoed him in two rounds."

Although busy chasing criminals, Foster finds time to train local fighters. He's presently working with a lightweight named Rudy Lovato, who has compiled a record of 5-2. Foster sticks with him because Lovato listens, something he says other fighters haven't done.

"You tell those guys one thing, but they always have a better idea," Foster said with a tone of disgust. "They don't know the sport, but they think they're the experts. So I tell them to find someone else to train them."

Foster, who went 56-8-1 (46), and

(Continued on page 67)

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The Supreme Dream:

The Heavyweight Hopes of the Heavyweight Hopefuls

The heavyweight title is symbolic of so much more than ring supremacy. Four of the division's top contenders, Riddick Bowe, Michael Moorer, Lennox Lewis, and Razor Ruddock, are well aware of this; they began dreaming about becoming champions the day they became fighters. Here are their innermost thoughts.

"The heavyweight championship would be a long-time dream come true. From the beginning, I always wanted to be like Muhammad Ali. I remember in seventh grade, this kid named Daryl Lane jumped up and said, 'I'm Joe Frazier.' So I jumped up and said, 'I'm Muhammad Ali,' and we went at it, right there in the classroom. The teacher was petrified. But she's the one who saw my energy and helped me find a gym.

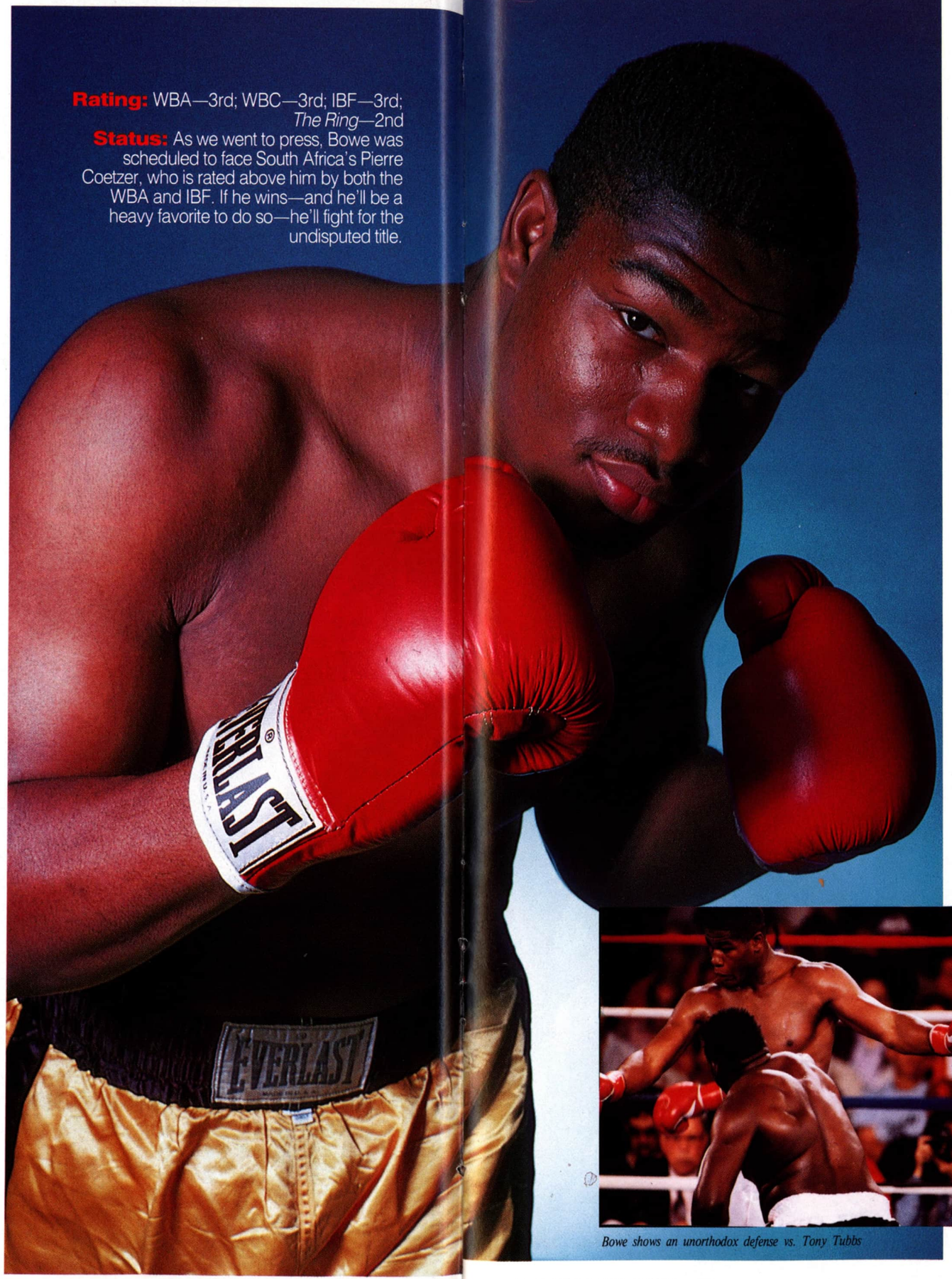
"Becoming heavyweight champion will at least put me in Ali's league. And it can help me be like Mike [Jordan, not Tyson]. Maybe kids will start to say, 'I want to be like Riddick.' I'm a person before I'm a fighter, and I'd first go about being the best person I could be, then go about being the champion. I'd be able to help people and do a lotta things. Having that status, you can do a lot. Me and Rock [Newman, Bowe's manager] will stand up against apartheid. I'll tell kids that drugs are not the way out. This is all something I want to do. If I never got publicity from any of it, that would be okay. In fact, I'd prefer it that way.

"Winning the heavyweight title would be like winning the NBA championship. You know you're number one, the best in the world, and no one can touch you. But the difference is that you have to do it all by yourself.

"I've fantasized about it for a long time."

Rating: WBA—3rd; WBC—3rd; IBF—3rd; *The Ring*—2nd

Status: As we went to press, Bowe was scheduled to face South Africa's Pierre Coetzer, who is rated above him by both the WBA and IBF. If he wins—and he'll be a heavy favorite to do so—he'll fight for the undisputed title.



RIDDICK BOWE

Fort Washington, Maryland
30-0 (26)

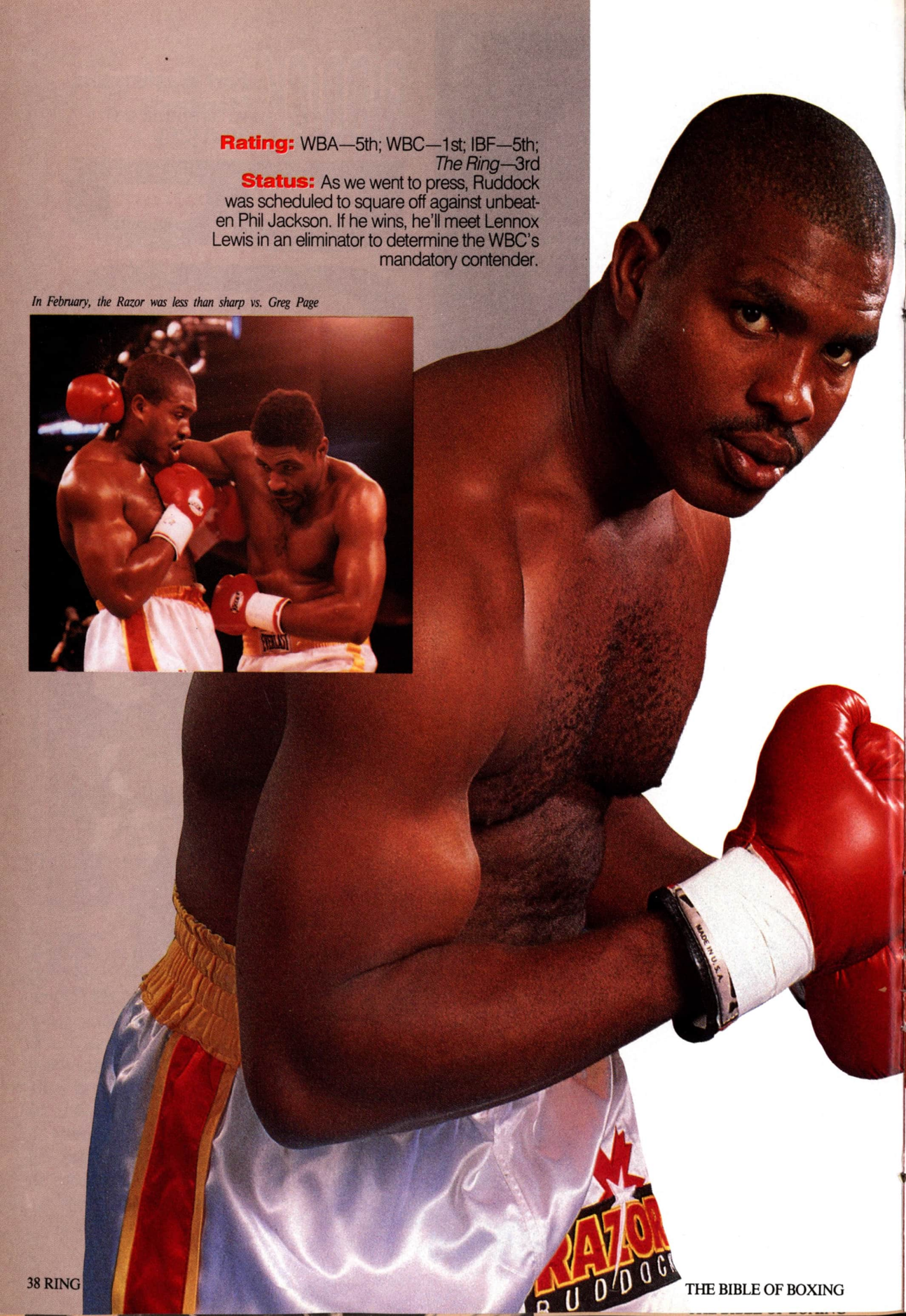
In June 1991, Rodolfo Marin lasted only two rounds

Bowe shows an unorthodox defense vs. Tony Tubbs

Rating: WBA—5th; WBC—1st; IBF—5th; *The Ring*—3rd

Status: As we went to press, Ruddock was scheduled to square off against unbeaten Phil Jackson. If he wins, he'll meet Lennox Lewis in an eliminator to determine the WBC's mandatory contender.

In February, the Razor was less than sharp vs. Greg Page



"I first started dreaming about being heavyweight champion of the world after I beat Mike Weaver. I figured I'd go for it. I don't think about it every day because I try not to put that much pressure on myself; it would be mentally draining. It's before a fight that I put it all in perspective. If I don't make it, I won't view myself as a failure. You can't be a failure if you've tried your hardest.

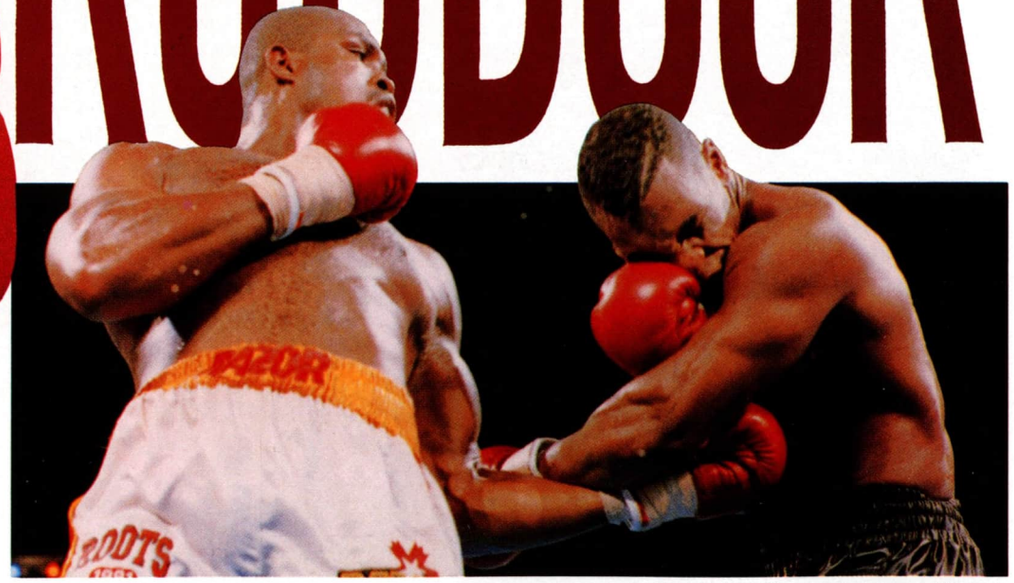
"I feel I've been put on this planet to do something great. Winning the heavyweight title would be my greatest achievement, no doubt about it. But that's just the start. You have to do something with the title. It's a great platform to reach a lot of people, especially the youth, who look up to the champion. They're looking for a role model. I would show them a drug-free athlete who proves there's another way to make it besides the easy way: good old-fashioned hard work.

"You can't group fighters. A lot of people stereotype us as tough and dumb. The heavyweight champion doesn't have to be the toughest fighter in the world, just the most skilled. And I'm not saying I'm the smartest guy in the world, either. But if I make a mistake, it will be as a human being, not a fighter.

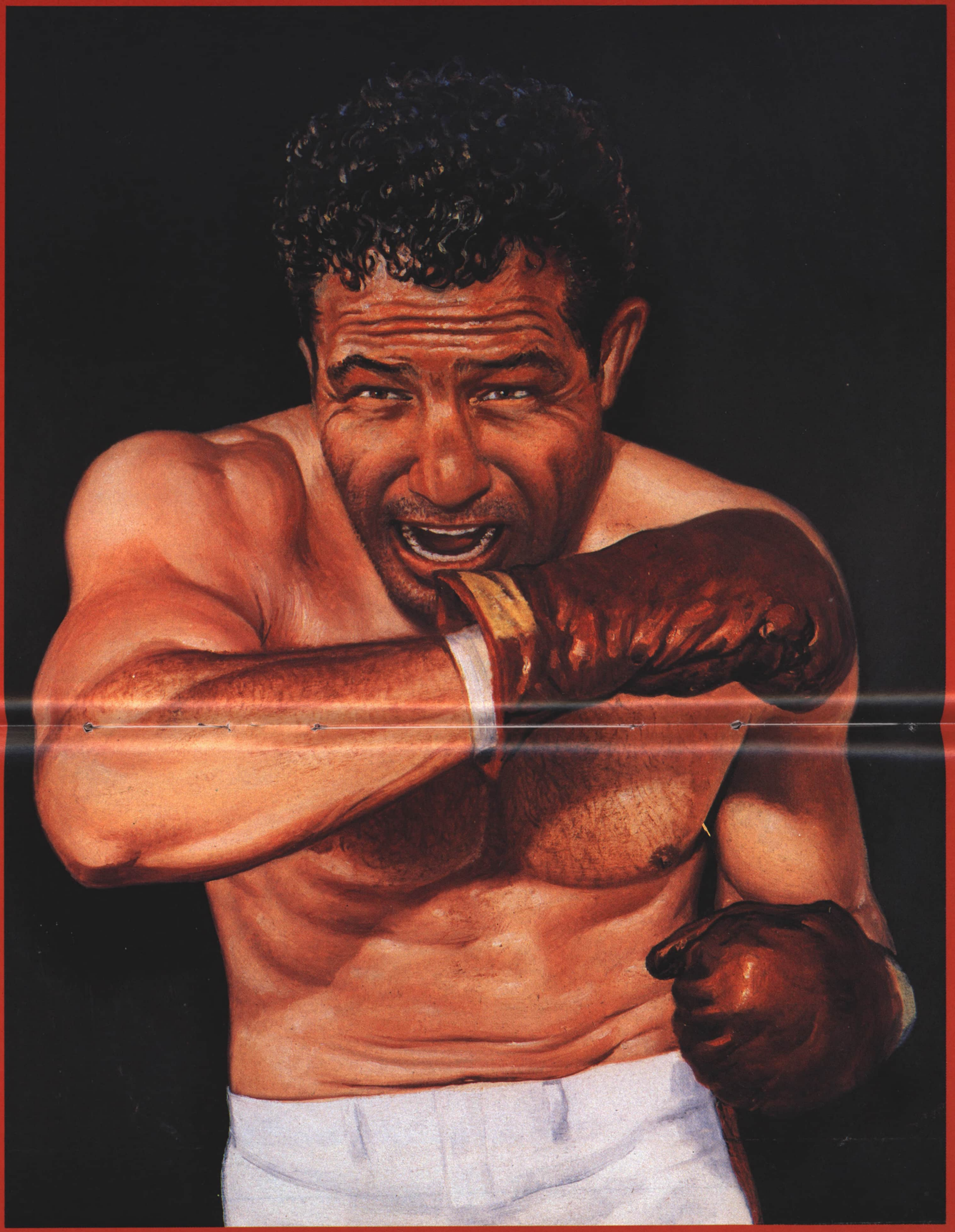
"I can't put on a piece of paper exactly what it will be like when I'm heavyweight champion, but I'll know it when I get there."

RAZOR **Toronto, Canada**
26-3-1 (19)

RUDDOCK



Tyson-Ruddock II was a classic heavyweight brawl



the RING

MAX BAER

Heavyweight Champion Of The World
Title Reign: 1934-1935

Moorer crushed a game Alex Stewart in four rounds

MICHAEL MOORER

Detroit, Michigan
29-0 (27)

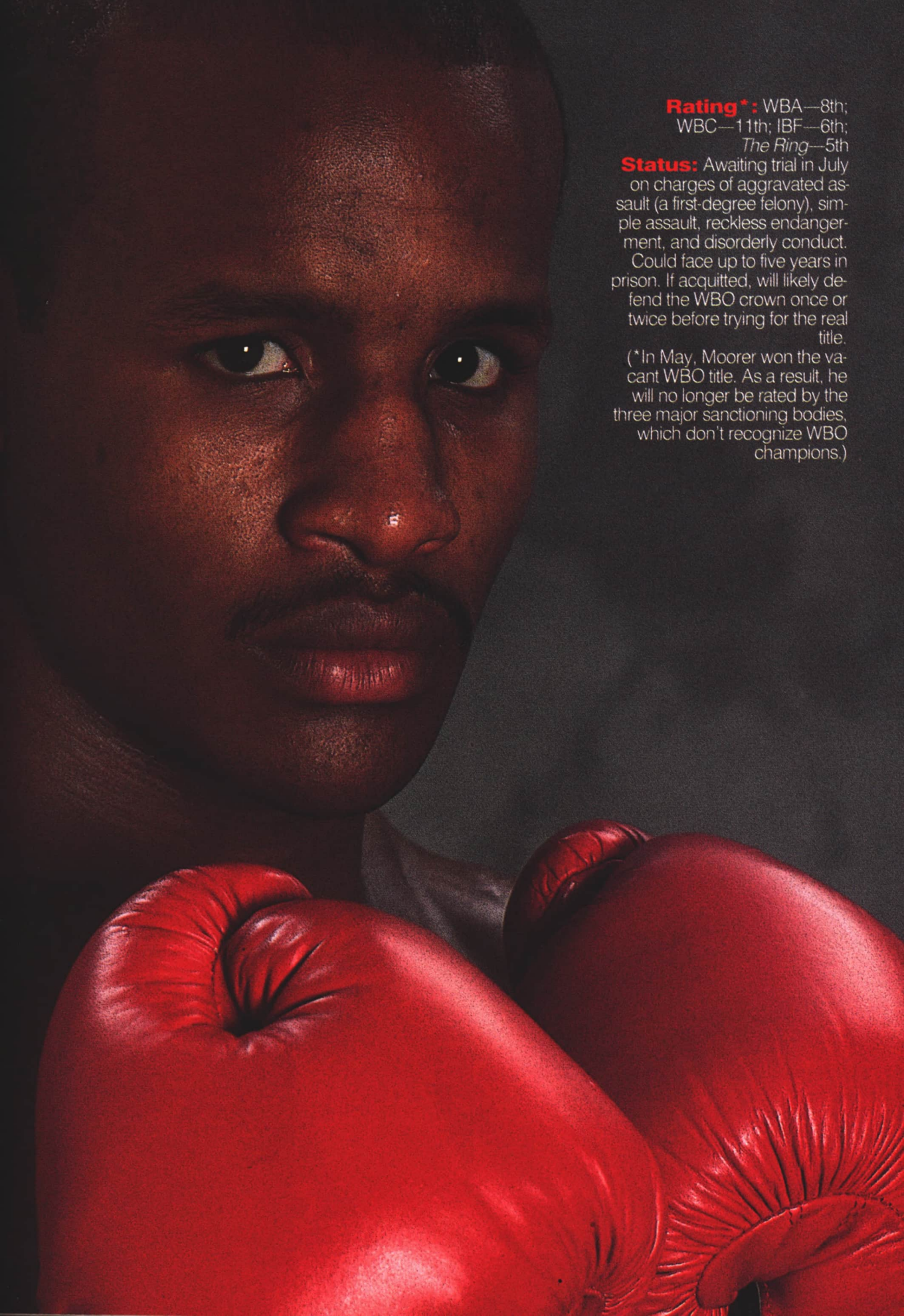
"The heavyweight championship is the epitome of my sport, but I never grew up thinking about it because I always fought in much smaller weight classes. I guess every boxer wants to be the heavyweight champion, but when you look at the list of guys who really held the undisputed title, there aren't many names on it. A lot of guys have had the potential, but their talent never worked for them, or they didn't have the heart.

"People *still* don't know Michael Moorer. If I win the title and sit down with Arsenio Hall, then they'll see how charismatic I am, and they'll learn what a good champion I'll be. I first started thinking about the title last year, when I had my first heavyweight fight. I thought, *Wow, I'm here now. This is where the big boys are.* A bad performance at heavyweight is still better than a good performance at light heavyweight because you're fighting in the toughest weight class in the game.

"If you're the heavyweight champion, you know you can beat any boxer. The middleweight and light heavyweight champions are nothing next to you. But the best thing about being heavyweight champion will be that the challengers can't blame any weight loss if they lose.

"No, that's the *second-best* thing. One of those $20-million purses would be the best thing. That would be *ex-cel-lent.*"

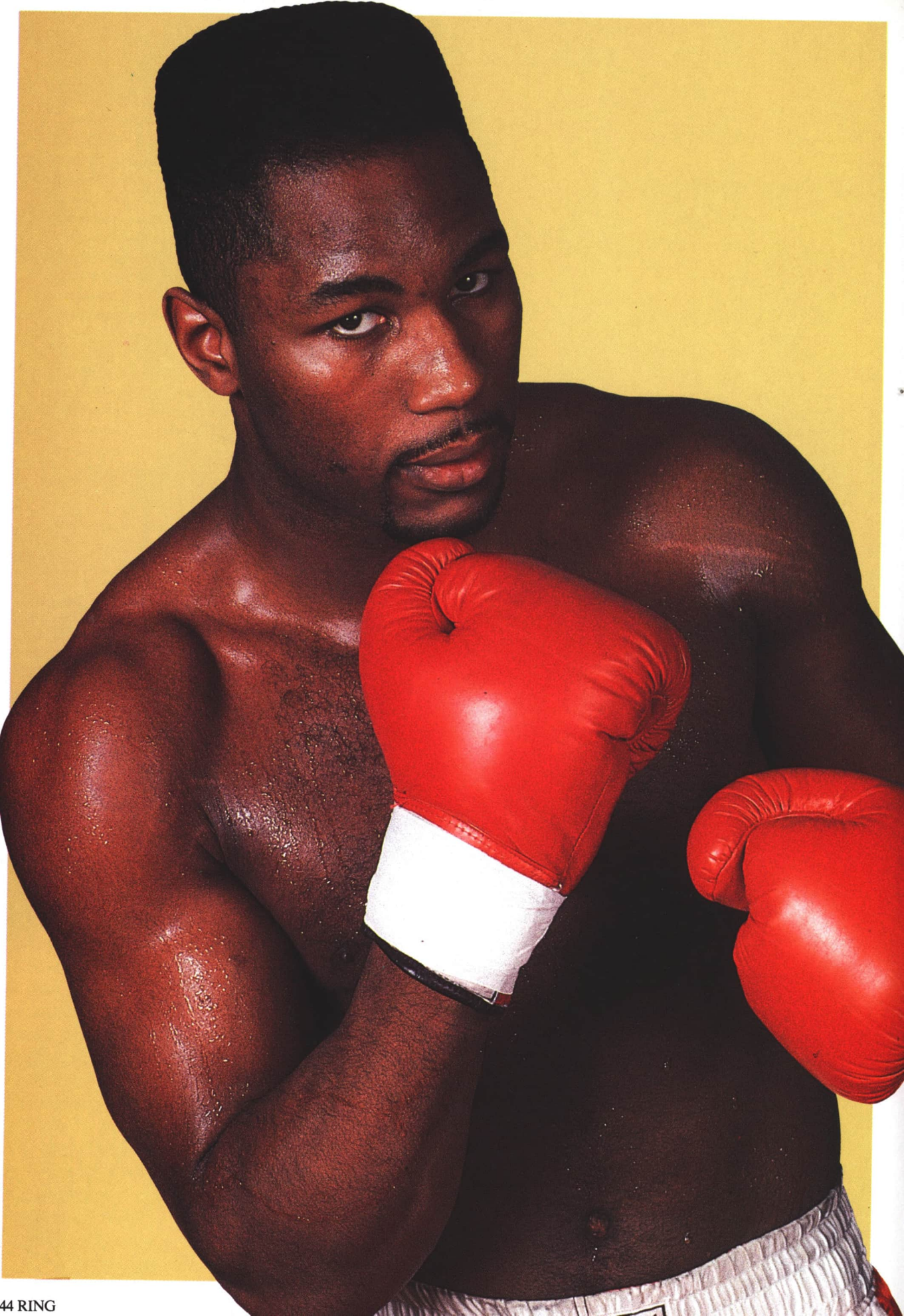
Against Bert Cooper, Moorer barely survived the smoke



Rating*: WBA—8th; WBC—11th; IBF—6th; *The Ring*—5th

Status: Awaiting trial in July on charges of aggravated assault (a first-degree felony), simple assault, reckless endangerment, and disorderly conduct. Could face up to five years in prison. If acquitted, will likely defend the WBO crown once or twice before trying for the real title.

(*In May, Moorer won the vacant WBO title. As a result, he will no longer be rated by the three major sanctioning bodies, which don't recognize WBO champions.)



Rating: WBA—2nd; WBC—2nd; IBF—4th; *The Ring*—9th
Status: A showdown vs. Frank Bruno would mean big money in England. A WBC eliminator with Ruddock will determine whether he's a legitimate title threat.

In February, Levi Billups extended Lewis for 10 rounds

LENNOX LEWIS

London, England
20-0 (17)

Lewis displays his firepower vs. Dan Murphy

"The heavyweight championship is a goal to conquer. In my life, it's only one of my goals. But in my career, it's number one. A lot of great athletes have been champion, like Muhammad Ali. It's one of the greatest achievements an athlete can realize. I first said to myself I could be champion after the 1984 Olympics. I realized how well I did, and how good I could become. I'm very goal-oriented, and I said, 'Let's go all the way.' I decided I could go on to become one of the greatest, and I felt really good about it.

"Before, I was starving. Now I'm hungry and ready to eat. The dream I have is that I'm running in the street. I'm only looking through my eyes, but I can see far. I can see the finish line, and there I am, holding up my hands. And on those hands are boxing gloves. That's when I realize I've made it to the top of the world.

"I wouldn't be a boisterous champion. I'd be a role model, especially for kids. I'd give them someone who spoke well and tried to stay out of trouble, and someone who instilled in them leadership qualities by example. Young people need someone to look up to, and the heavyweight champion has a lot of influence.

"And I can see the finish line."

SIXTIES SENSATION EDER JOFRE

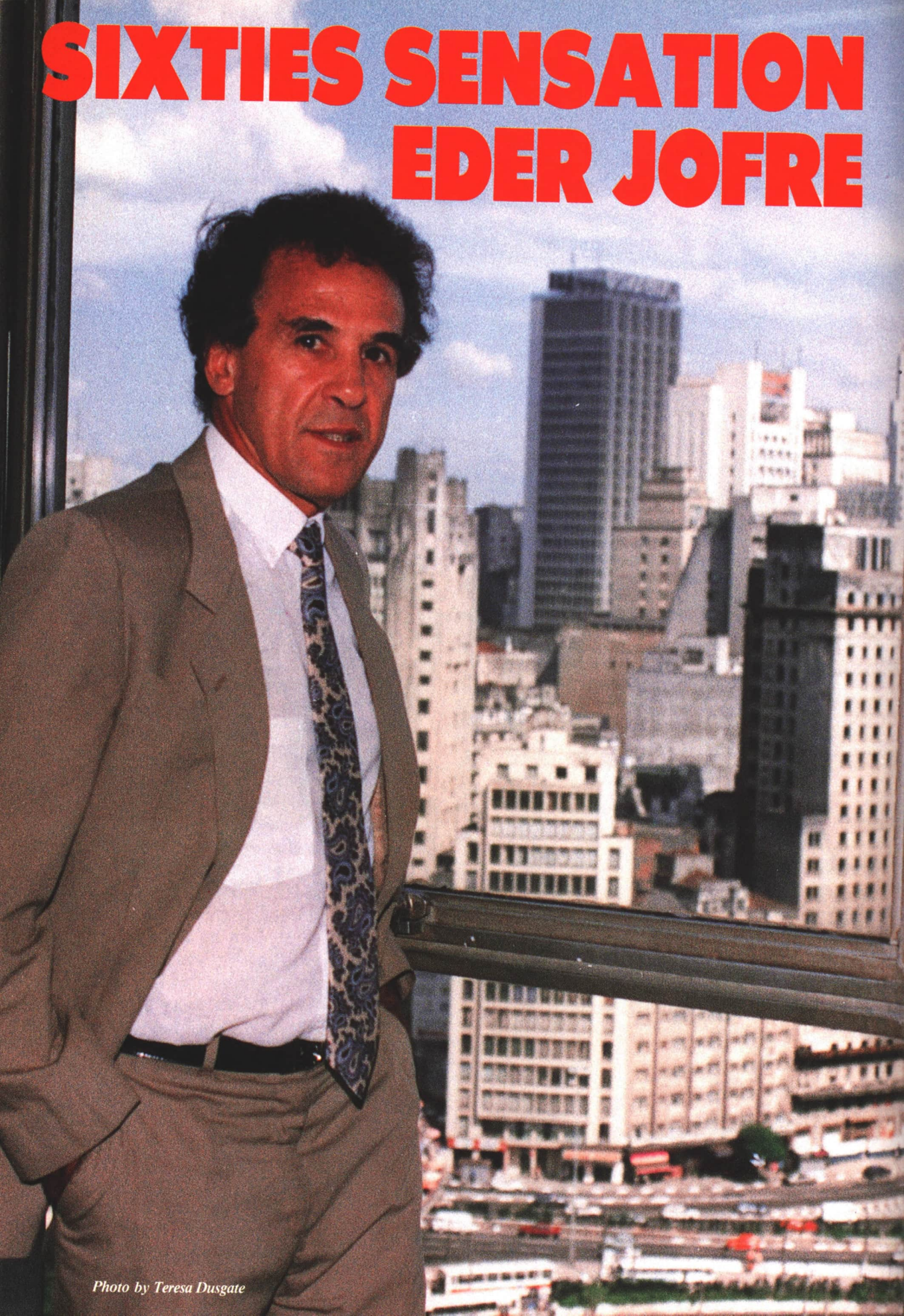
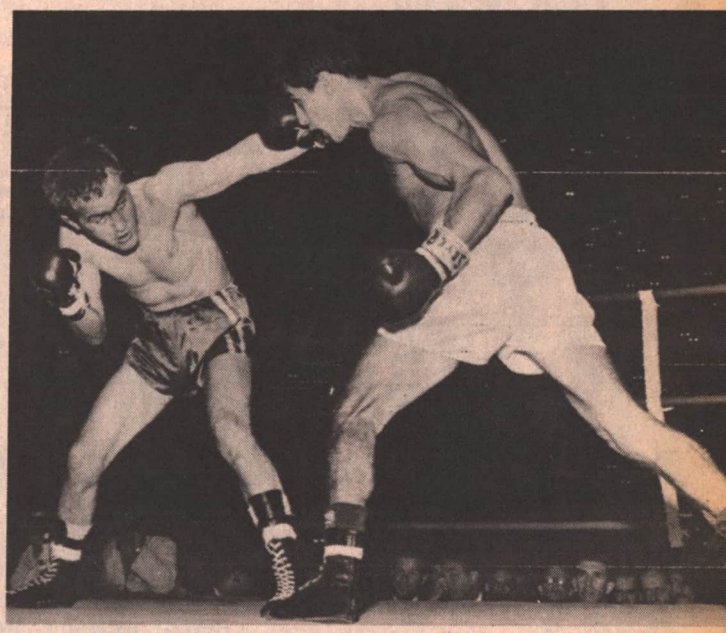
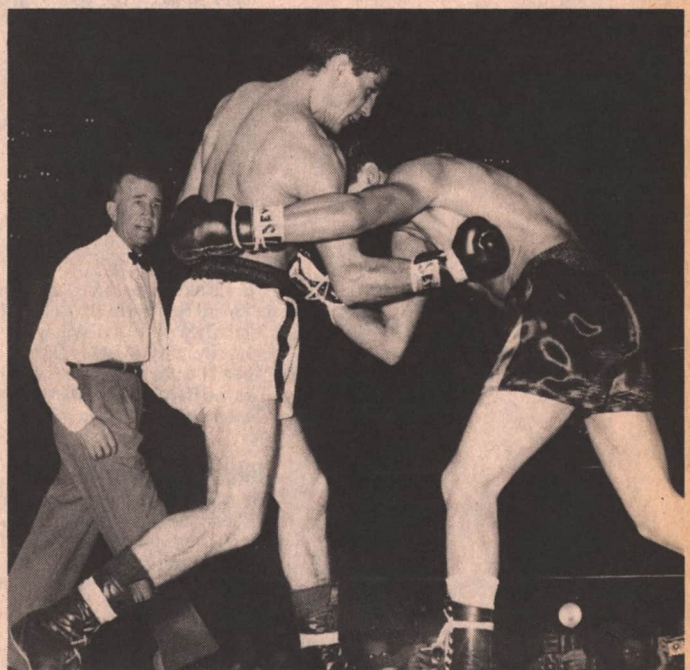


Photo by Teresa Dusgate

The Best Of His Day . . . Even If You Never Saw Him Fight



Jofre unified the bantamweight title by stopping Johnny Caldwell in January 1962 (above). During the champion's victory celebrations, the Brazilian flag was never far away (left).



Jofre won his first world title by kayoing Eloy Sanchez in November 1960 (above). Today, the former champion works as an alderman high atop his beloved Sao Paulo (opposite page). In June, he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

By James Dusgate

With its peerless natural harbor, and the breath-taking beauty of the world-famous Sugar Loaf Mountain, Rio de Janeiro is rightly acknowledged to be the jewel in Brazil's exotic crown. Still, there has always been an intense rivalry between Rio and its neighbor, Sao Paulo. Over the years, the frantic pace of urbanization has effectively fused the two metropolises into a single geographical entity. Among the resources they have proudly shared has been Eder Jofre, who remains Brazil's only great champion.

Though Jofre's courage and dedication were never in question, there was so much more to him than the fearlessness of a big-hearted fighter. His greatest asset, and that which set him apart from hundreds of other champions, was his classic, highly polished boxing skill and technique, honed to perfection by his father from the moment he first put on a pair of gloves.

***

Earlier this year, *The Ring* caught up with Brazil's second most famous sportsman (after soccer legend Pele) at his office in Sao Paulo. It sits atop an enormous skyscraper, with a panoramic view of a city

(Continued on page 52)

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Michael Moorer KO 5 Bert Cooper
Pierre Coetzer KO 1 Carlton West
Tommy Morrison KO 2 Art Tucker
Alex Garcia KO 2 Mike Gans
Paul Poirer W 10 Juan Quintana
Mike Evans KO 5 Lopez McGee
Frankie Swindell KO 4 Ken Bentley
Tim Anderson W 5 Mark Gastineau

CRUISERWEIGHTS
James Warring W 12 Johnny Nelson
(Retains IBF Title)
Orlin Norris KO 2 Keith McMurray
Arthur Williams W 10 Dwight Qawi
Derek Angol KO 2 Robert Clevenger
Jason Waller KO 8 Tim St. Clair
Kenny Keene KO 3 Ron Daniels
Willie Edwards KO 1 Chavez Francisco

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Jeff Harding KO 8 Christophe Tiozzo
(Retains WBC Title)
Saul Montana KO 6 Salvador Maciel
Mike Sedillo W 10 Ivan Rukavina
Adam Garland KO 4 Terry Collier
Gary Ballard KO 10 Frankie Minton

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Mike McCallum W 10 Fermin Chirino
Nigel Benn W 10 Sugar Boy Malinga
Doug DeWitt W 10 Dan Sherry
John Scully W 12 Melvin Wynn

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
James Toney KO 3 Ricky Stackhouse
(Non-Title Bout)
Gerald McClellan KO 1 Carl Sullivan
Bernard Hopkins W 10 Anibal Miranda
Chris Pyatt W 10 Ian Strudwick
Chris Pyatt KO 1 James Tapisha
Greg Thomas W 10 Eric Holland
Wayne Harris KO 4 Basante Blanco
Buster Drayton W 8 Jose Vera

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
John David Jackson KO 9 Pat Lawlor
Gilbert Dele KO 4 Eric Rinehardt
Lloyd Honeyghan KO 2 Mickey Duncan
Freddie Ladd KO 6 Mack Bowman
Gregory Clark KO 10 Chris Jewell

WELTERWEIGHTS
Glenwood Brown KO 2 Roque Montoya
Yori Boy Campas KO 5 Samuel Martinez
Buck Smith W 6 Ray Harris
Buck Smith KO 2 Marco Davis
Buck Smith W 6 Rodney Johnson
Gary Murray KO 8 Terry Thomas
Engels Pedroza KO 2 Juan Nunez
Darren Dyer KO 10 Del Bryan
Anthony Ivory W 10 Terry Whitaker

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Rafael Pineda KO 7 Clarence Coleman
(Retains IBF Title)
Pernell Whitaker KO 1 Jerry Smith
Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 3 Tomas Da Cruz
Livingstone Bramble W 10 Anthony Stephens
David Kamau KO 2 Pedro de la Cruz
Sammy Fuentes KO 7 Marco Antonio Lizarraga
Jorge Ramirez KO 5 Gilberto Flores
Kostya Tszyu KO 2 Tony Jones
Pedro Sanchez W 10 Edwin Murillo
Jake Rodriguez W 10 Julio Flores
Felix Trinidad KO 4 Raul Gonzalez
Jong Jung Pacquing KO 7 Dindo Canoy
Luis Tyson Vasquez KO 4 Rene Arredondo

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Darryll Tyson KO 3 Roberto Medina
Rafael Ruelas KO 2 Francisco Cortiz
David Sample W 10 Ramon Zavala
Nazarov Olzubek W 12 Iwao Otomo
Carl Crook KO 7 Steve Boyle
Kenny Baysmore KO 2 Clifford Hicks
Jan Bergman KO 5 Hope Sole

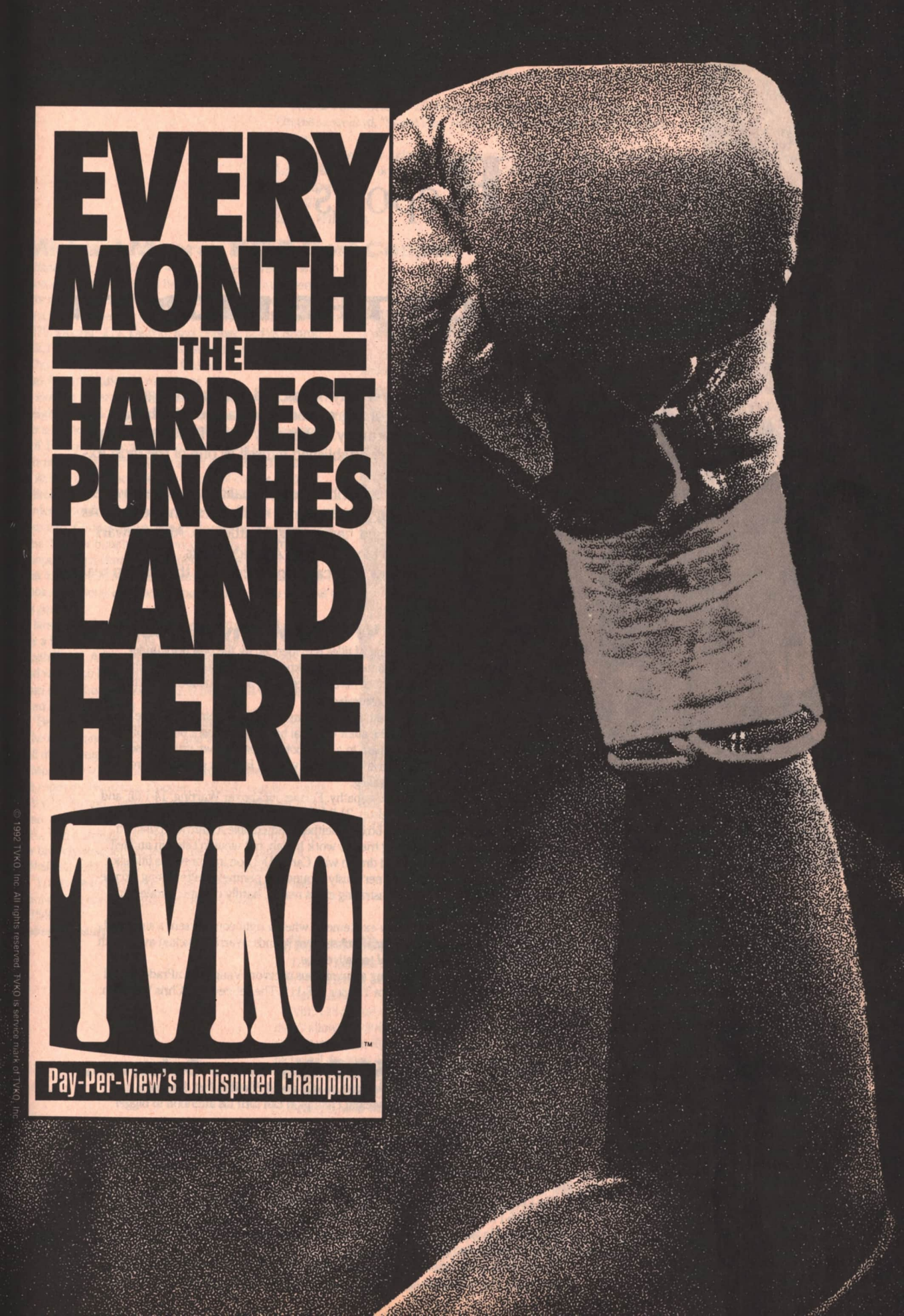
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Gabriel Ruelas KO 7 Raymond Arce
Jacobin Yoma W 10 Jean DiBateza
Jerry Ngobeni W 8 Danny Myburgh
Rudy Cabiles W 12 Richard Acaylar

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Kevin Kelley KO 2 Tommy Valdez
Colin McMillan W 12 Maurizio Stecca
Alejandro Gonzalez KO 2 Paquito Openio
Hector Lizarraga W 8 Gabriel Castro
Julio Gervacio KO 3 Lee Cargle
Chris Saguid KO 7 Jojo Cayson

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Victor Rabanales KO 4 Luis Alberto Campo
(Retains WBC Title)
Rafael Del Valle KO 1 Duke McKenzie
Luis Mendoza W 10 Mario Diaz
Samuel Duran KO 11 Jun Cardinal

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Jesus Chong KO 2 Victor Hernandez
Jacob Matlala W 12 Mzukisi Sikali

STRAWWEIGHTS
Alejandro Felix Montiel W 12 Alfredo Xeque
Ali Galvez W 12 Ruben Poma



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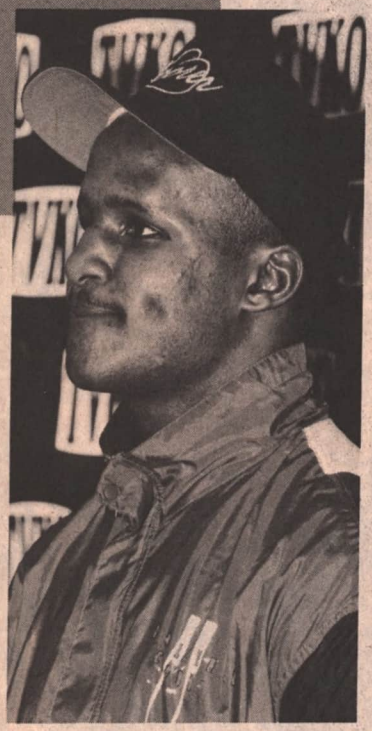
Ringside Reports

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH



Michael Moorer

Unbeaten southpaw Moorer may not ascend the heavyweight throne—if convicted in July of aggravated assault and other charges, he may never receive the opportunity. But in only seven fights in boxing's glamour division, he's already established himself as one of the most exciting fighters in the world.

Moorer brings an explosive combination of qualities into the ring: legitimate kayo power, a willingness to brawl, and a questionable chin. As a result, his two most significant heavyweight battles, vs. Alex Stewart and Bert Cooper, have been blood-soaked Armageddons.

Moorer survived both. Now if he can survive his trial, the fun can really begin.

James Warring W 12 Johnny Nelson,

Bealton, Virginia—The cheapening of titles is evidenced by the obscurity under which the lesser entries are often contested. Little-known IBF cruiserweight titleholder Warring, 188, Miami, has made both of his defenses in this state. The locale this time was tiny Hugo's Arena, out in the pasturelands.

Challenger Nelson, 189¼, Sheffield, England, may mean something in Europe, to which the bout was televised, but the affair left local backers holding a big bag of air. The *raison d'etre* was to provide a path to a title shot for homegrown cruiser Jason Waller, but the bout was postponed and relocated when it failed to get off the ground in Waller's hometown of Fredericksburg.

The contest lived up to the public's apathy. Former kickboxer Warring, 14-1 (9), and British and European champion Nelson, 21-6-1 (15), spent the afternoon tactfully avoiding hostilities. Both rangy, standup boxers, neither seemed able to throw a punch in anger at his mirror image. Warring tried to work his jab, but wouldn't step in and fell consistently short. Nelson, who had drawn with Carlos DeLeon in a previous title shot and hadn't fought in a year, edged nervously around the perimeter, attempting excuse-me counters. The product was a frustrating chess match, hardly commensurate with purported championship quality.

Only in the eighth was there any excitement, when a right counter sent a surprised Nelson reeling against the ropes. But in subsequent rounds, Warring backed away with no more than a rear-guard action of tentative jabs.

The judges, all local, gave Warring a unanimous decision. Vaughan LaPrade scored 120-108, John Witt 117-111, and Jim Traylor 118-111. The referee was Chris Wollesen. (5-16-92)

J.R. Jowett

Rafael Pineda KO 7 Clarence Coleman,

Mexico City, Mexico—The best that can be said about Pineda's first defense is that it's over. Now the IBF junior welterweight champion can turn his attention to bigger and (we hope) better challenges.

The card at El Toreo de Cuatro Caminos was more a tuneup for future matches than competitive pairings, and the Mexico City boxing fans weren't fooled; less than 2,500 paid to attend, leaving promoter Pro Vantage with a cavernous arena and lots of red ink.

The Colombian champion, 28-1 (26), had no problems with Coleman, Newark, New Jersey, 16-6-1 (5), who was mysteriously ranked 12th. Pineda's biggest problems were with himself. He looked wild and awkward against the taller American, missing more than he hit as he tried for a big knockout.

To scattered boos, Pineda finally sent Coleman down with a left to the head early in the seventh. The champion again dropped his foe with a right, and when the challeng-

er arose, Mexican referee Jesus Arias Torres stopped the one-sided match at the 28-second mark.

"Coleman turned out to be a tough rival," Pineda said with a straight face. "Because he was, from the second round I chose to fight him from a distance. When he cut me on the right eyelid in the sixth round [from a clash of heads], I got worried and tried to turn it up."

Pineda's next defense will be against former lightweight champion Pernell Whitaker. On the same card, "Sweet Pea" stopped sparring partner Jerry Lee Smith at 2:22 of the first round.

The show also included tuneup victories for Miguel Angel Gonzalez and Genaro Leon, whose next bouts should be for the WBC lightweight and welterweight titles, respectively.

(5-22-92)

Bruce Williams

Michael Moorer KO 5 Bert Cooper,

Atlantic City, New Jersey—The Smoke proved he was no joke, and Moorer proved he can be dangerous when properly motivated. In a heavyweight fight as explosive and violent as the legendary George Foreman-Ron Lyle brawl of 1976, Moorer, 217, Detroit, and Cooper, 224½, Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania, took turns battering each other until "The Kronk Krusher" finally finished his foe with a two-punch combination in round five.

Hoping to establish that his near-knockout of heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield was not a fluke, Cooper smothered Moorer with punches from the opening bell. He backed the southpaw to a neutral corner and scored the fight's first knockdown after just 40 seconds.

Rather than proceeding to a neutral corner, Cooper drifted, which delayed referee Joe O'Neill's count and afforded Moorer valuable recovery time. When the action resumed, Cooper again pinned Moorer on the ropes. This time, Moorer punched his way out of danger, stunning Cooper with a short left. Cooper fired back with a right that missed, and Moorer connected with two hard right hooks. The second punch dropped Cooper onto the seat of his pants.

Moorer went down again in round three, collapsing under a barrage of punches. Up at the count of four, he again fought back. A hook knocked Cooper's mouthpiece out, and when the bell rang, Smokin' Bert had blood gushing from a cut above his right eye. (The wound was the result of an accidental butt.)

"Bert had hurt me a couple of times," Moorer admitted. "The determination, courage, and wisdom I have helped pull me through."

Moorer, 29-0 (27), once more found himself fighting off the ropes in round five. Cooper, 27-9 (24), dug two rights to the body, and the Kronkie countered with a left to the head. A vicious right uppercut snapped Cooper's head back, and a straight left knocked him to the canvas. Cooper bravely reached his feet at the count of nine, but O'Neill waved the fight off at 2:21 of the round.

"You have to take your hat off to Bert Cooper," said Moorer. "He came to fight. He came to win."

(5-15-92)

Robert Cassidy

Moorer and Cooper brawled with passion

Victor Rabanales KO 4 Luis Ocampo,

Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico—Never let it be said that the WBC doesn't help its own. The organization certainly went out of its way to satisfy interim bantamweight champion Rabanales.

With 118-pound champion Joichiro Tatsuyoshi sidelined by an eye injury, the WBC didn't allow the division to stagnate; in March, Mexico's Rabanales was matched against unbeaten Korean Yong Hoon Lee, and crowned after scoring a ninth-round technical decision. When his hometown asked him to make his first defense as part of the city's 100th birthday celebration, the WBC contributed by approving then-number-18 contender Ocampo as his opponent.

Ocampo, who was instantly elevated to number 10, proved a decent choice. The South American and Argentine champion was competitive for a couple of rounds, and even drew first blood when a clash of heads created a gash on the champion's right cheek.

For Rabanales, 31-10-2 (18), the cut served as a wake-up call. He took charge in a brutal third round, and by the middle of the fourth, was outpunching Ocampo, 33-8-6 (7), three to one. Venezuelan referee Simon D'Lima stopped the fight at 2:41 of the fourth.

The crowd of nearly 5,000 at the Plaza de Toros San Roque showered the ring with coins. Even the WBC has things turn out okay once in a while.

(5-16-92)

Bruce Williams ■

Eder Jofre

(Continued from page 47)

that boasts a downtown area as modern and impressive as any in the world.

The former world bantamweight and featherweight champion, now 56, is still in great shape, and leads a full life in his second career as a politician. For seven years, Jofre has been an alderman for the world's second largest city—his beloved Sao Paulo. His duties include authorizing the construction of roads, schools, and clinics. Having made the quantum leap to wealth and fame, the man who once gave his all in the ring now channels his aggression and ambition into improving the lot of Brazil's poverty-stricken masses. In 1990, his son Marcel (named after Marcel Cerdan) also ran for the Sao Paulo state senate. (He was defeated.)

Jofre and his family live in a comfortable, traditional house in an elegant neighborhood not far from his downtown office. He drives through the teeming, sunlit streets in the Mitsubishi four-wheel drive he uses for work.

"I've never wanted to live anywhere but Sao Paulo," he said. "These are my people, and I'll always treasure the love they showed me during—and since—my career in the ring."

***

If ever a man was destined to be a fighter, it was surely Jofre. His father Aristides, an Argentine of French and Spanish descent who was himself a useful lightweight, ran a small gym. Among the employees was Eder's mother Angelina, who came from a well-known Italian boxing family.

"They used to joke that *fight* was the first word I uttered," said Jofre.

His parents aside, Jofre recalls at least 14 other relatives who made a living from either boxing or wrestling.

"My father's brother Tonico made his pro debut on my birthday [March 26, 1936]," he said. "On my mother's side, Olga Zumbano was one of the best women wrestlers in the world, Ralf Zumbano was lightweight champion of Brazil, and Hans Norbert was middleweight champion of Europe.

"My first fight was at age four, against a cousin. Once I began attending school, I would race home every afternoon to carry out my training routine. The other kids thought I was crazy, but I took it all *very* seriously.

"In a way, the greatest day of my life came when I was nine years old. They were having a tournament at my dad's gym, and he arranged for my first bout. I dreamed about it every night for a week. When they introduced me, it felt like I had electricity running up and down my spine; it was what I had wanted for as long as I could remember. When I won, my dad danced around the ring with me on his shoulders. I must only have weighed about 50 pounds."

Jofre's first bout lit a fire in his belly that raged until he was past 40 years of age. He cannot be sure how many amateur bouts he had, but reckons there must have been more than 150. As his country's most outstanding amateur ever, Jofre had the chance to fight at the 1956 Olympic Games. He was favored to win a gold medal, but lost a narrow decision in the bantamweight semifinals to Chile's Claudio Barrientos.

Following his return to Brazil, Jofre turned pro. About the same time, he made another very important decision, and a highly unusual one for a boxer: He became a vegetarian.

"Many people at the time said I was crazy," he recalled. "The idea wasn't nearly as popular back then as it has now become—and certainly not for a professional sportsman. But it was a conscious decision on my part; I knew what I was doing. For years I had seen other fighters eat lots of meat and fish, supposedly to give them energy. But after a few rounds of a fight, they would tire just the same. I figured that a diet high in green vegetables and fruit would give me more energy for endurance. And it worked. My diet contributed to me being able to maintain my weight, which was often a serious problem, and fight at bantamweight for so long."

Jofre had 12 fights in his first year as a pro, winning 10 and drawing twice. He remained unbeaten in 1958, and improved on the previous year's performance with nine kayos, one points win, and one draw. After two more victories in early-1959, he faced his stiffest challenge to date, a 10-rounder against NBA-ranked Filipino veteran Leo Espinoza.

Though Jofre was in peak condition, his nervousness against his vastly more experienced opponent was obvious. But even without giving it full throttle, he managed to deck the Filipino in the fifth round and earn a unanimous points victory. A month later, he became the first Brazilian fighter ever to achieve an international ranking.

By December, he was ready to take on another Filipino, Danny Kid, who was the third-ranked challenger for Jose Becerra's world title. Spurred on by 15,000 fanatical fans, Jofre put his opponent down in the fifth and eighth rounds and earned the decision.

In the first half of 1960, the Brazilian scored two wins over South American champion Ernesto Miranda. Then he retired his Olympic conqueror, Barrientos, with an eighth-round kayo. That victory brought a telegram from George Parnassus in Los Angeles: "Get ready to fight Joe Medel in L.A. next month. Winner will meet Joe Becerra for world title."

For the first—and not last—time in his career, Jofre was having problems making weight. He struggled to lose seven pounds before the fight with Medel. Realizing that a long, draining bout would work against him, he tried for a quick knockout, and the first five rounds were filled with furious action.

"I had him in trouble in the fourth, then he turned the tables on me in the fifth," Jofre recalled. "At the end of the round I told my dad, 'I've had it, I can't breathe.' He told me, 'He's more tired than you are.'

The next few rounds were calmer. Then, at the start of the ninth, Medel attacked like a tiger. Sensing his last opportunity, he pinned Jofre against the ropes and landed with power.

"He must have known it was then or never," Jofre recalled. "He had me in real trouble. I remember thinking, *If he catches me again, I'm gone.* But I landed a left to the chin, and his legs buckled. He wobbled—for a moment he seemed to be dancing the cha-cha-cha."

As Medel came out for the 10th, his eyes were still glazed. Jofre forced him to a corner, and a punch to the chin doubled him up and sent him down. The referee's count had reached four when the bell rang. Medel's handlers dragged him back to his corner, but he didn't make it out for the start of the 11th.

(At this point, Abraham Katzenelson took over as Jofre's manager. Their relationship would prove to be a long and checkered one, ending in an acrimonious rift in the twilight of Jofre's career.)

Jofre had expected that the man he would have to beat to win the world crown would be Mexico's Becerra, who had dethroned the brilliant Alphonse Halimi. As so often happens in boxing, however, events took an unusual turn:

Becerra caused the death of an opponent, Walt Ingram, and despite the protestations of Parnassus, decided to retire. Parnassus then worked out a deal whereby Jofre and another Mexican, Eloy Sanchez, would fight for the vacant NBA crown.

The European Boxing Union refused to accept this arrangement and organized a bout for its own version of the title, between Halimi and England's Freddy Gilroy, three weeks before Jofre took on Sanchez at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles. Halimi won and was recognized as world champion by the EBU, as well as the influential New York State Boxing Commission; the bantamweight division would soon have two monarchs.

Jofre's title fight against Sanchez, dated November 18, 1960, was something of an anticlimax for both the Brazilian and his adoring public.

"I think Sanchez was overawed," he said, "I don't know whether by the occasion or his opponent! He had 10,000 screaming Mexicans behind him, and the atmosphere was electric. Personally, I always liked that, it got the adrenaline going."

Jofre took charge by the third. In the furious fifth, he put Sanchez down for an eight-count. The Mexican desperately rallied, but in the sixth, Jofre caught him with a hook-cross combination to the jaw, and Brazil had its first world champion.

On Jofre's return home, 100,000 people lined the route from the airport. In a scene worthy of a Roman epic, a crown of laurels was placed upon his head, and the procession moved past the Governor's Palace of the Elysian Fields. It was a setting to match the occasion. Lending the proceedings a lighter touch, Jofre led the parade atop a fire engine. It took four hours to reach Parque Peruche, the poor neighborhood where he had grown up and still lived.

Jofre was anxious to fight Halimi and unify the title once again.

"If he doesn't want to come to Brazil, I'll go to France to fight him," he announced.

(In the interim, Jofre was married in Sao Paulo. No less than 5,000 fans crowded into and around the church.)

Like the proposed showdown with Becerra, the Jofre-Halimi duel never materialized. In July 1961, Halimi lost his portion of the title to Irishman Johnny Caldwell. A rematch was scheduled for October. Waiting for the

(Continued on page 54)

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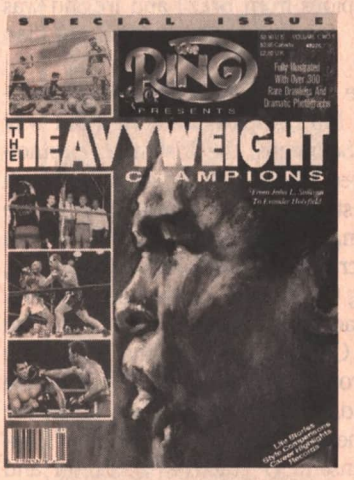

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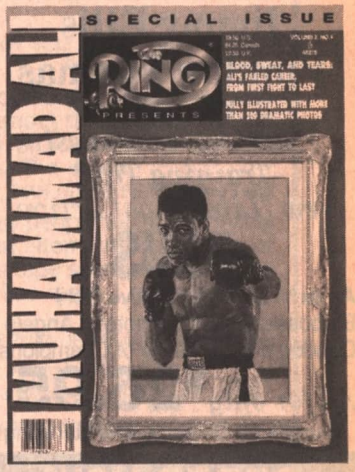

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Eder Jofre

(Continued from page 53)

winner, Jofre kept in shape with kayos over Japan's Sadao Yaoita (a non-title fight), and Venezuela's Ramon Arias.

As it turned out, Halimi again lost to Caldwell, and the long-awaited title reunification fight between the unbeaten champions from Brazil and Ireland was made for January 18, 1962, in Sao Paulo.

The arrival of the Caldwell bandwagon in Rio caused quite a stir, and wily Jack Solomons, the Irishman's promoter, used all his skills to create as much interest in the bout as possible. On the evening of the fight, 18,000 partisan fans crammed into Ibirapuera Stadium, giving the event a carnival atmosphere.

Unaccustomed to fighting on the road, Caldwell was pale and tense. The first round was uneventful, but in the second, Jofre landed some heavy punches and sensed his opponent's apprehension. He then took control and began to punish Caldwell mercilessly.

In the fifth, he dropped Caldwell with a hook. According to the local press, the timekeeper had already reached four before the referee—one Willie Pep—began his count. Caldwell was up at seven, and the bell saved him from further punishment.

To his credit, the unhappy Briton hung on until the 10th round, when his father threw in the towel. Brazil now flaunted not only a world champion, but an *undisputed* world champion.

***

After knocking out Herman Marquez in San Francisco, Jofre again faced Medel, this time in Sao Paulo. The fans were treated to a tremendous toe-to-toe scrap. The first three rounds were even. Then Jofre began to get on top. In the fifth, a hook to the chin put the Mexican on the canvas for a count of seven.

Midway through the sixth, the challenger worked Jofre into a corner and caught him with a tremendous hook. For a moment, Jofre's fans held their breath. But their hero remained on his feet and came back with a series of combinations that pushed his opponent back to the center of the ring. There he finished him off with a devastating cross. Medel's lights were out before he hit the canvas. In part due to the electric victory, Jofre was named the WBA's Boxer of the Year.

In 1963, Jofre made two defenses, against Katsutoshi Aoki in Tokyo and Johnny Jamito in Manila. The champion and his entourage were surprised to see the crowds that turned out to greet them at the Tokyo airport.

"I never saw so many bantamweights all in one place," quipped Aristides.

The publicity and attention proved to be quite a distraction. Jofre's opponent also raised the stakes when he announced that if he lost, he would commit harakiri right there in the ring. The fight turned out to be one-sided, with Jofre kayoing the challenger in the third. Burying his face in his hands, Aoki retreated in shame to his dressing room as the crowd showered the ring with cushions. He needed police protection to leave the arena.

Jofre, on the other hand, was treated like a king. Crowds followed him from Kuramae Arena to the hotel, pushing his car with their hands as if it were the chariot of an emperor returning to Rome in triumph. Hundreds of Japanese fans besieged the hotel throughout the night, sending in gifts and messages of congratulations by the dozen. Jofre had to make several balcony appearances to appease them. Another 5,000 turned up at the airport to give him a champion's sendoff.

In the Philippines, Jofre was treated quite differently: Hostile fans threatened to kill him. Once again he experienced weight problems, and reducing his intake of liquids in 90-degree heat took a physical and psychological toll. Jamito proved to be a tough opponent, and Jofre failed to put him away until the 12th.

There was an unscheduled break of 18 months before the champion's next defense. Jofre had not had such a long layoff since starting to box as a boy. A fight with Mexico's Jesus Pimentel was finally arranged, but the challenger pulled out one week before the match. A substitute was found in Colombia's Bernardo Caraballo, who was unbeaten in 43 fights. Jofre attacked from the start and kayoed him in the seventh. It was his 17th straight knockout, and eighth successful defense.

His fellow bantamweights were presenting no problems; it was clear that Jofre's toughest fight would be making the division's 118-pound limit. In May 1965, he was more than two pounds over at the weigh-in for his Tokyo defense against Fighting Harada. After an hour's run, he scaled 118—without an ounce to spare.

"I thought to myself, *After this fight, I'm going to eat and drink until I make heavyweight!*" he joked.

Harada chugged forward with confidence, and in the third landed a right to the champion's chin. Jofre never fully recovered, but, according to many ringsiders, was still deserving of the verdict. It was to be Harada's night of glory, however, and the former flyweight champion was given the split decision.

Thirteen months later, Jofre returned to Tokyo for the rematch. Eyebrows were raised when he came in two pounds below the limit. In an obviously weakened condition, and against a highly talented opponent, the Brazilian had to draw upon his considerable reservoir of ring craft to last the 15 rounds. As a result, the fight lacked the fire and excitement of many of his previous title duels. Harada again took a narrow points decision.

With the benefit of hindsight, it is obvious that Jofre should have moved up to featherweight long before his losses to Harada. But his father had been afraid that 126-pound opponents might be too strong and dangerous.

For his part, manager Katzenelson reputedly earned more from Jofre's title fights than the fighter himself, making secret deals on the side with promoters such as Parnassus, and carefully nurturing the widely accepted belief that no one else in Brazil had his international contacts. In 1976, Jofre finally switched managers. He said that Kaled Curi made him more money in four minor fights than Katzenelson had in 12 major ones.

(Katzenelson was unavailable for comment.)

As far as the rest of the world was concerned, another chapter in boxing history had concluded rather ingloriously; the great Jofre had gone out with a whimper rather than a bang. A long period of reflection followed. No longer Brazil's brightest sporting star, the former champion was urged by his family to accept a tour of exhibitions with another renowned local boxer, Oripes dos Santos. Their show was comprised of a bizarre mixture of boxing, wrestling, and showbiz—Jofre's Aunt Olga's troupe of lady wrestlers were first on the bill. It drew thousands of fans wherever they went. Men, women, and children turned out in droves to watch their idol. In time, Jofre realized that he had not been forgotten, and that his adoring public—not the press and the

(Continued on page 56)

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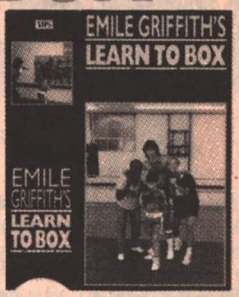

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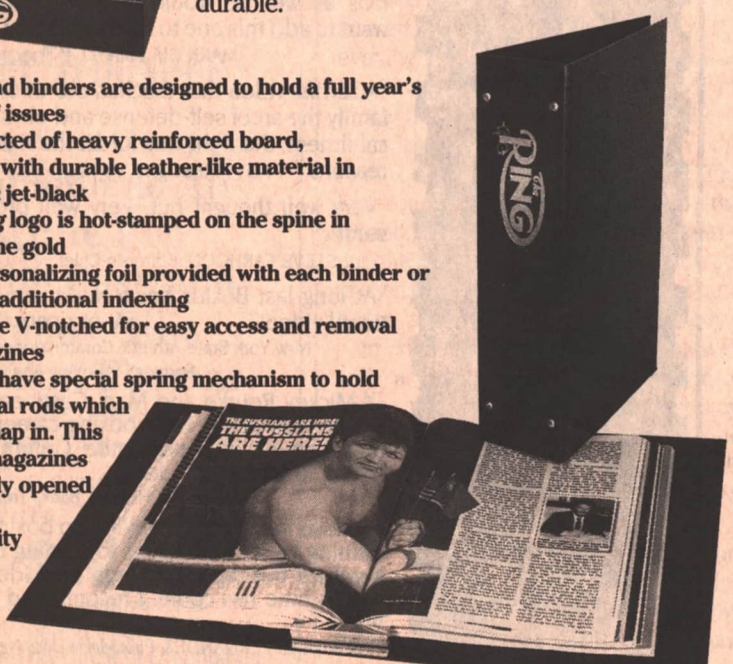

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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Eder Jofre

(Continued from page 55)

hangers-on who now shunned him—still believed in their hero.

In the summer of 1969, with his financial resources dwindling, Jofre decided to fight again. Over the next three years he notched a string of 13 victories at featherweight, including eight knockouts. Even so, he was nearly 37 years of age, and few believed he could topple Jose Legra.

The Spaniard was a modern, media-oriented boxer in the Ali mold, and did his best to hype his contest with Jofre, which came in Brasilia in May 1973. Seven years younger and three inches taller than his opponent, Legra dismissed the Brazilian's chances, and even predicted the round in which he would fall: the fourth.

It was Jofre, however, who took the first two rounds. But at the end of the third, Legra caught him with a crisp right cross, and as he fell against the bottom rope, the bell sounded. The enthusiastic crowd fell silent. Before the start of the fourth, the champion stood and, turning full circle, gave the crowd a thumbs-down sign to indicate that it was time for the finish.

It was at that point that Jofre demonstrated the qualities that are the hallmark of a truly great champion. Still groggy from the knockdown, he came out with both fists blazing and quickly had the surprised champion in trouble.

"From that point on, he was on his bike," he recalled.

Jofre chased the Spaniard around the ring and used his superior technique to pile up points. At the end of the 15 rounds, he was given a majority decision. Once again Jofre was the undisputed king of Brazil. He gave one of his gloves to the president, who had witnessed the fight. The other he kept to place on his mother's grave.

Jofre next chose to defend against former world champion Vicente Saldivar in October 1973. It turned out to be easier than he could have expected. For Jofre, the hardest part was actually getting into the ring; he spent much of the day of the fight at the hospital with his father, whose health was fast failing.

In the third, Jofre stepped up the pressure. In the middle of the fourth, Saldivar threw a left—and left himself

(Continued on page 58)

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Eder Jofre

(Continued from page 56)

open. Jofre countered to the solar plexus. Saldivar fell against the ropes and bounced back. Jofre caught him with a perfect left to the chin, and it was over.

Above the pandemonium, Jofre shouted in his father's ear: "This victory is yours, Dad. Everything I've achieved in this life I owe to you and Mom."

Aristides' reply proved to be prophetic: "Now I can die in peace, son. The satisfaction you gave me tonight is as much as any man has a right to expect in a lifetime."

Amid the euphoria, no one imagined that the victory would be Jofre's last night of glory—and the last time that his father would be in his corner.

There could have been more title fights had it not been for the wrangling over finances between handlers Katzenelson and Marcos Lazaro. They managed to lose money on the Saldivar defense, and Katzenelson refused to accept his part of the blame. As they squabbled, the six-month maximum for a title defense was running out, and the WBC ordered Jofre to fight Venezuela's Alfredo Marcano. In desperation, Jofre wrote to his managers, informing them that he regarded their failure to protect his interests as a breach of contract. Lazaro hurried off to Caracas to strike a deal, but Katzenelson refused to accept the terms. On June 17, 1974, the WBC stripped the champion of his crown for "refusing" to fight Marcano.

Jofre was upset, but also had other things on his mind. On March 24, two days before his 38th birthday, his father had succumbed to lung cancer. Jofre eventually signed for a fight against Venezuelan Niliberto Herrera. The former two-time world champion struggled both physically and psychologically in earning a points victory over a mediocre opponent. It was the first time in his life that his father had not been with him for a fight. His mind was made up: It was time to retire once and for all.

But after a year's rest, Jofre decided to get back into training, despite the fact that his brothers had closed the gym where he had always prepared. Jofre's six victories in 1976 were of no real significance. What they did lead to, however, was a final break with Katzenelson. For 15 years, the soft-spoken, mild-mannered boxing great had refused to believe the accusations leveled against his manager by some of those closest to him. Jofre made next to nothing for his first two comeback fights, which led to his split with Katzenelson. As Jofre told one journalist, "If I'd broken with Katzenelson at the time of my first comeback, I'd have made 10 times the money that I did."

In recent years, Jofre and his former manager, who also represents Brazil's world-famous singer Roberto Carlos, have achieved something of a reconciliation, though Katzenelson does not handle any of his affairs.

Jofre's last fight was on October 8, 1976—at 40 years and six months of age—against Mexican "Famoso" Gomez. He won a 12-round decision, but clearly struggled. He decided to retire two weeks later, when his beloved brother Dago suddenly died from an intestinal hemorrhage. His comeback had been the most successful in boxing history—25 straight victories and a world crown.

A tribute to Jofre prepared by a group of leading Brazilian sportswriters ended thusly: "Like the poet, he will still have to live as well as fight." For the past 15 years, this great champion has continued to battle, but in the political arena, and not the ring. Disgusted at the lack of progress being made in solving the nation's many social and economic problems, he even switched political parties. Last year he earned the wrath of President Collor de Melo by publicly blasting the government's lack of support for Brazilian sportsmen.

In a year marred by Mike Tyson's conviction for rape, it is some comfort to realize that, at 58 years of age, Eder Jofre's tireless dedication to social progress and change was born out of 40 years of supreme effort and honest pain inside a boxing ring. ■

Meldrick Taylor

(Continued from page 27)

own blood. Then came the final seconds of round 12, when Taylor got caught with a stiff Chavez right hand. One punch. Two seconds. Irreparable damage. Could it be possible?

"I don't think Meldrick Taylor is shot," said Madison Square Garden matchmaker Bobby Goodman. "Meldrick can still beat a lot of good fighters. But no fighter is the same after

(Continued on page 60)

'60s & '70s ISSUES

When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, *The Ring* was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, *The Ring* was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of *The Ring* were already talking about them. *The Ring* covered all the boxing events and personalities of the '60s and '70s as no other magazine could—and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).

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Meldrick Taylor

(Continued from page 58)

coming off a fight like the Chavez fight."

Perhaps. But consider that only 10 months after, Taylor turned in one his finest performances, scoring a unanimous decision over defending WBA welterweight champion Aaron Davis. The fight was vintage Meldrick; he was busy, gutsy, and flashy.

But we haven't seen the same fighter since. In his first 147-pound title defense, Taylor edged unheralded mandatory challenger Luis Garcia by split decision. He followed that by climbing off the canvas after two early knockdowns and scoring a unanimous decision over Brown. Then came the Norris fight and a spate of criticism and question marks.

"There's always question marks when *I* lose," said Taylor. "My career will continue in a positive way. I'm not losing my edge. If anything, I'm gaining. I'm going to get better."

He will have the opportunities to prove it. Taylor is anxious to get back in the ring, and there are plenty of welterweights equally as anxious to climb in with him.

"That's my dream," said Glenwood Brown. "To get a rematch."

Taylor indicated that he will fight four more times before the end of 1992, and said he'd probably make a mandatory defense against Crisanto Espana in September. Brown, rated third, will soon be in line for another try.

Taylor also has plans on unifying the title, which would presumably lead to a rematch with WBC champion Buddy McGirt. Taylor beat McGirt in 1988, taking the New Yorker's IBF junior welterweight title. (McGirt maintains he was suffering from an ear infection, and never should have stepped into the ring.) The only thing blocking McGirt-Taylor II is money.

"Would I like to fight Taylor with Buddy McGirt, sure I would," said Goodman, who promotes fights for McGirt and Brown. "I don't think the result will be the same this time. We want Taylor if someone is willing to pay for the fight."

Taylor doesn't buy it.

"If McGirt had a vendetta, he wouldn't let money get in the way," said the WBA champion. "I don't know what he's thinking, but I'm not going to judge myself off my last performance. I'll knock him out again, like I knocked him out the first time."

In 1989, boxing people made the mistake of calling Thomas Hearns a shot fighter. All Hearns did after that was pummel Sugar Ray Leonard and pitch a near-shutout over unbeaten Virgil Hill. The gauge everyone used to judge Hearns was his chin. Such is the case with Taylor. He has been down five times in his last two fights.

"He really can't take a punch," said Brown. "Everyone he fights will be watching the tapes of when Norris fought him and when I fought him."

But Taylor is only 25, and the label might have been affixed prematurely. If a fighter can be considered great too soon (see Donald Curry, Mark Breland, and Michael Nunn), so, too, can one be considered washed up too soon. It would appear that Taylor still has the legs—despite arthroscopic knee surgery in 1989—and boxing ability to alter his style enough to protect his chin. If he switches to a stick-and-move style, who in the welterweight or junior welterweight divisions would be considered a decisive favorite to beat him?

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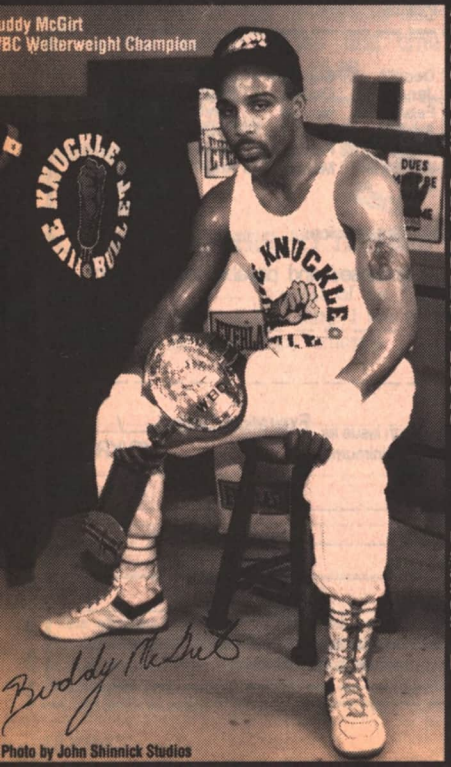

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McGirt? Blocker? Chavez? Camacho?

Strip away the losses to Chavez and Norris and Taylor is still left with some major-league accomplishments. The Norris fight was not necessarily a barometer of Taylor's future. Norris, after all, is a junior middleweight, and one of the best fighters in boxing.

"I basically blame myself for that performance," said Taylor. "My game plan was to get on the inside and go to his body. And when he fired back, to move out of there. I lost my game plan.

"I didn't do what was necessary to keep the fight going. What was so frustrating was that I was in the best shape of my life and I didn't get a chance to show my skills or conditioning. Instead of me doing the smart thing and move, I did the brave thing and fought."

Courage has been one of Taylor's most appealing traits. His blinding hand speed and style aside, what has separated him from friend and stablemate Pernell Whitaker—a desire to brawl—may ultimately prove his undoing.

"People appreciate the kind of fighter I am," he said.

That's not necessarily true of his trainers, Lou Duva and George Benton, who have both tried to convince Taylor to box more. In the 12th round of the Davis fight, Taylor spent his time circling the ring. He even drew a warning from referee Arthur Mercante to start fighting. He was booed, but he walked out of the ring a champion.

Duva and Benton have also tried to reduce the number of punches Taylor absorbs. Not since the Chavez fight have we seen Taylor launch a six-punch combination. That's because the longer he stands in front of an opponent to punch, the longer he'll be there to get hit. They've also instructed him to work the body more frequently, which would force him to bend more and avoid punches. The fighter himself admits that the best Meldrick Taylor is the one who uses his boxing skills.

"I have to start thinking more and stop being so brave," he acknowledged.

Sometimes Taylor can't help being brave. His willingness to face Norris was consistent with his thirst for greatness. He has always wanted to meet and beat the best. In his first 13 pro fights, he fought rugged southpaw Robin Blake, contender Harold Brazier, and the crafty Howard Davis Jr. (It can be argued that those tough fights so early in his career are now taking their toll.) His reasoning for the Norris fight: "I was looking for other alternatives to enhance my status. I had to step up and take the challenge."

"What Mel does is what all fighters should do: He accepts challenges," said Cardona. "If Mel is a victim, he's a victim of his own ambition."

He's been a victim of Chavez and Norris, too. But does that mean he's a shot fighter? Hardly. Taylor's fists still rank among the fastest in boxing, and if he can resist those toe-to-toe exchanges, he'll be a lot more difficult to hit.

"He's always cognizant of the fact that the public might be questioning him," said Cardona. "He feels he has to go back and show them he still has the skills he's been blessed with. My most important concern is Mel's perception of himself."

Despite what's being said and written, Taylor's perception hasn't diminished.

"I never want sympathy from anyone," he said. "I still have high esteem. I can beat anybody." ■

Sharmba Mitchell

(Continued from page 31)

"I'm complaining, believe me," Mitchell said while relaxing at the Round One Gym in Tuxedo, Maryland, where he trains. "I don't understand how this boy Joey Gamache gets [a chance to face Chil Sung Chun for the vacant WBA title]. But I'm going to go up to Maine to the fight and stir up a whole lot of trouble. Like a lot. Like the Muhammad Ali days."

As much as he's craving a title shot, Mitchell can wait a bit longer for his turn. As a University of Maryland sophomore majoring in business management, he has plenty of other things to think about, including nine credits worth of summer courses.

Whether battling toward the finals of the National Golden Gloves and Olympic Trials Eastern Regional Championships in 1988, or dominating opponent after opponent in a four-year pro career, Mitchell has always made studying a top priority. It's one of the advantages he has over most boxers when it comes to handling huge stretches of dead time.

Even in the final days leading up to

(Continued on page 63)

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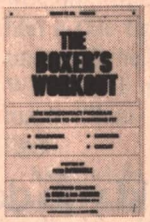

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Sharmba Mitchell

(Continued from page 61)

a bout, when most fighters are either watching TV or playing cards, Mitchell can be found deep in the books. His October 1991 bout with crosstown rival Keely Thompson (KO 9) was the perfect example.

"Two or three days before the fight, at the hotel, he'd get into bed and he'd be eating an apple and doing his homework," said Mitchell's longtime manager and trainer, Adrian Davis. "I'd say, 'It's 2:30 in the morning. You should be asleep.' An hour later, *3:30* in the morning, he'd still be doing it. That's not good. It's good and it's bad. He's determined to get his schoolwork done, but he's got to get his rest."

"When I fought Thompson, I was in school, and it was around finals time," recalled Mitchell. "You know there's nothing to do in training anyway, so that's the best time to study. You can't go out if your girlfriend calls. You can't do anything. You've got to stay in your room. Instead of watching TV, I think that's the perfect time for studying."

Davis remembers the first time he took Mitchell to Las Vegas for a fight. With all the temptations of that town, Mitchell, owning a solid reputation as a ladies' man, could have run wild.

"He could have been walking around with a thick roll of money in his pocket," said Davis. "And what's he doing? Looking to buy something for school.

"We had an adjacent room [at the hotel], and one day I was a little mad at him. Mad about something. And I went in there and he's sitting back in the corner with a little light on, doing his homework."

Even before getting a degree, Mitchell has been scouting around for profitable business opportunities. He wants to buy and rent a couple of condominiums. Maybe open a hair salon.

"Life doesn't stop because I box," he said.

***

When it comes to the fast and loose world of professional boxing, there's always politics and intrigue, and Davis thinks Mitchell has been a victim of machinations that have kept him from gaining wider recognition.

It goes something like this: After Mitchell's fourth fight, Ron Katz, a matchmaker for Top Rank, told Davis he wanted to put together a promotional deal, but the manager rejected the proposed contract. Bruce Gelb, now with Top Rank, but then working with his promoter/father Frank, subsequently offered his services. Davis liked what he heard, and gave him 20 percent of Mitchell's managerial contract.

Six months later, the Gelbs offered up their own promotional deal, which called for no signing bonus and a minimum payday of $50,000 for Mitchell's first defense, should he win a world crown.

Davis was livid, and pretty much ended his working relationship with the Gelbs. Now he believes that they are keeping Mitchell, who used to fight regularly on ESPN, and his other fighters, off the air.

Davis blamed the Gelbs when ESPN failed to air a second-round knockout registered by his rising middleweight, Andrew Council, over Top Rank-groomed Patrick Caan on one of the network's shows. He also points to the mere five-second clip Showtime played of Mitchell's recent 10-round points win over former two-time junior lightweight champion Rocky Lockridge, which came on the undercard of the Reggie Johnson-Steve Collins WBA middleweight title bout in April.

The Showtime clip, no matter how short, boiled down the essence of Mitchell's boxing style. In it, Mitchell backed away from an advancing Lockridge, broke into a shuffle step, and fired off a combination. It is a style that some critics say is long on histrionics and short on punching power. Mitchell's record, five knockouts in his last seven fights, indicates otherwise.

"Adrian believes my father is blackballing Sharmba from television," said Bruce Gelb. "I said, 'Adrian, you're giving my father too much credit.' "

Gelb said it was in his family's best interest to sign Mitchell to a promotional contract so that when his title shot came up, they could minimize the involvement of outside promoters. But Gelb believes Davis' asking price was too much.

"At the time, people were whispering in Adrian's ear about how valuable Mitchell was," said Bruce Gelb. "He would refer to a couple other people who got big bonuses. Adrian was looking for $100,000, $200,000."

The Gelbs didn't offer a bonus, and Davis went hunting. He came to a verbal agreement with Rock Newman, Riddick Bowe's manager, then turned around and joined up with Murad Muhammad, who handles Razor Ruddock. Muhammad satisfied Mitchell and Davis financially, but Gelb points out that Muhammad hasn't been able to get the fighter on TV.

"It's hurting Sharmba," he said. "For a year after we signed the contract to be the manager, he was fighting regularly and appearing on TV."

Gelb said it would be crazy for his family to try to keep Mitchell out of the spotlight. After all, Gelb still has 20 percent of the managerial contract.

For his part, Mitchell remains good friends with Gelb, despite the manager's strained relationship with Davis. But Mitchell also says in no uncertain terms that Muhammad is his promoter.

"I've got a million-dollar contract and a $150,000 signing bonus," he said.

Who can argue with that?

***

"Sharmba Mitchell is the most exciting lightweight to come along in a long time," said Murad Muhammad. "He has a lot of style and class, like Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard. And he has a lot of Hector Camacho in him because he's a southpaw."

Besides the money, compliments, and television exposure, Mitchell wouldn't mind Muhammad delivering him a title fight. Muhammad says that since Mitchell is ranked third by the WBA, he'll meet the winner of Gamache-Chun within 120 days of their fight.

Meanwhile, Gelb called Mitchell and said he could get him the winner of the Fred Pendleton-Tracy Spann IBF title fight in August, which his father purchased from Top Rank.

It would appear that no matter what he does, Mitchell is, at worst, only a few months away. And that's where the torturous hurry-up-and-wait of boxing comes in.

Davis, as anxious as he is, knows how the game works. He, after all, had 53 pro bouts of his own.

"As much as I want him to be world champion, it can wait," Davis said. "He's only 21."

"There's no rush," Muhammad said. "But everybody comes and whispers in your ears. All your great successful athletes are the ones who stayed with the team. If you have consistency in your life, you will be successful."

(Continued on page 65)

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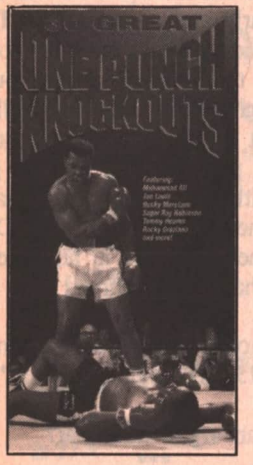

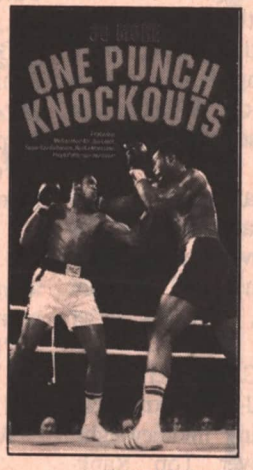

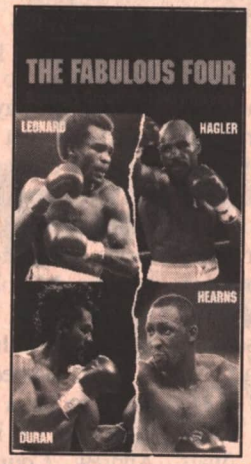

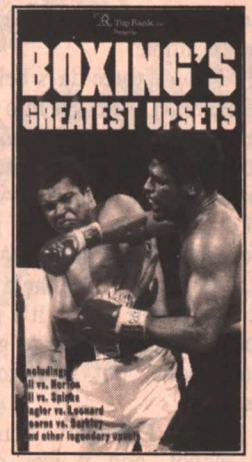

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Sharmba Mitchell

(Continued from page 63)

Mitchell, with his whole life unfolding before him, puts it this way: "If I don't have a title at 26, I don't care what I'm doing; I'm not going to be in boxing." ■

John Scheinman is a freelance writer based in Washington, D.C.

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

that so many of today's fighters have gotten away from bodypunching. It seems to be very effective."

According to trainer Kenny Adams, the plan for the remainder of the year is to improve Kelp as a boxer.

"We know he's got the power in his left hook," Adams said. "And his right hand has improved of late. But I want him to become a complete fighter. I've told him that he doesn't have to think when he uses his power. But he's got to use his mind when he's boxing. I want him to pivot, block, parry, and catch punches. On a scale of one to 10, I'd give him a seven in those departments. But only when he improves will we talk 10-rounders and a title shot. And not before."

When and if Kelp cashes in on his talent, he plans to do something for his mother. He remembers when her family wrote her letters describing the destruction of Phanrang, her hometown, after she and her children had left Vietnam. No sooner had Dao Kelp read the missives than she put her head in her hands and cried.

"I'll never forget that," said Kelp. "And when I can afford it, I'm going to bring her relatives to America."

The only bombs they'll see will be the ones landed by Skipper Kelp. ■

Kevin Kelley

(Continued from page 21)

car alarm screaming at 3 a.m., and its official bird is a 727 landing at LaGuardia.

Kelley was born and raised in Brooklyn. His family moved to Flushing when he was 12. He instantly loved the place, though he can't explain why. Maybe it's because so many different ethnic groups live in harmony. Maybe it's because you get the good of the city without having to put up with all of its bad. Maybe it's because heart is where the home is.

It's a warm afternoon in June, and Kelley is walking through Flushing Meadows Park, an enormous expanse of green that hosted the 1939 and '64 World's Fairs. Sixty years ago, the place was a garbage dump that F. Scott Fitzgerald described in *The Great Gatsby* as "the valley of ashes—a fantastic farm where ashes grow into ridges and hills and grotesque gardens." Today, The Great Gabber is providing a guided tour.

"Look at this park," he says, ripping off a combination for no apparent reason. "Beautiful. Everything in Flushing centers around this park."

For Kelley, the park is a particular favorite because it's the place where he embarked on his current career. And, on this day, it's the place where he's suddenly gotten the idea for his future line of work.

"I'd love to be the mayor of Flushing one day," he says excitedly.

When reminded that he'd have to be the mayor of all New York City in order to pull that one off, the smile leaves his face.

"Oh, yeah," he says. "Well, never mind."

***

That Flushing sound you hear is John McEnroe screaming at a linesman who was foolish enough to call that topspin backhand "out," and is now praying for salvation from Mac's salivation. The U.S. Open overtakes Flushing Meadows Park every summer, and fans arriving on the elevated subway walk from the station to the National Tennis Center via a boardwalk that, with no beach or hotel on either side of it, seems quite out of place.

Under the Boardwalk, though hardly down by the sea, is a tiny gym run by the Police Athletic League. It was there that Kelley developed the skills that won him two New York Golden Gloves crowns and numerous other amateur titles, and prepared him for the pro success he enjoys today.

When he was 15, Kelley, like most kids his age, was bored and looking for a niche in life. When an older guy in an eye-catching boxing jacket walked past him one day, Kelley asked him where he had gotten the nice duds. He was directed to a gym on Long Island,

(Continued on page 66)

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Kevin Kelley

(Continued from page 65)

but after two weeks of a tiring commute, he found out about the P.A.L. gym in the park, and soon became a regular.

"I stopped worrying about being cool, dressing up, impressing girls," he says. "I gave up all my friends, all my *life*, to concentrate on boxing. It was like going into the Army."

Actually, the Army would have required a little less discipline and a lot less travel. In his four-year career, Kelley has fought in The Netherlands, Belgium, and Curacao, all with no complaints. At just 5'6" and 126 pounds, those tiny hotel soaps do the job well enough. And each stamp on the passport obliterates a little more of the trepidation of leaving home. When he meets WBC champion Paul Hodkinson in Hoko's native England this fall, Kelley isn't likely to freeze.

"No problem," Kelley says. "I beat him, and then, when I have the title, everyone fights me where *I* want them to."

The worst two weeks of every year for the kids in the P.A.L. gym always comes when the U.S. Open hits town. Kelley is still bugged when he says, "We'd stand outside and watch [Bjorn] Borg come in, but most of it was no fun. Buses would run their engines by the gym, and the smoke would come in and kill us. The Open is a lot of peoples' dream, but there were a lot of dreams happening in that gym, too. The snobs were never aware of it."

Kelley looks into the distance at the stadium where McEnroe, Connors, and Lendl were crowned, and envisions a WBC belt, not a tennis trophy, being lifted high in the sky. Better yet, he pictures hordes of fight fans flocking through the place, beer flowing instead of Evian, and Plymouths parked in spots usually reserved for BMWs.

"That would be so great," he says laughing. "Payback time!"

***

That Flushing sound you hear is the roar from the upper deck of Shea Stadium, a tidal wave of noise that would permeate the Kelley family's apartment on the corner of Colden Street and 45th Avenue whenever Darryl Strawberry, Gary Carter, or Howard Johnson took someone deep.

There were two types of kids in the neighborhood when Kelley was growing up. The first group worked at Shea, hawking peanuts, sodas, and yearbooks, "and sometimes making $100 a night." The other group, the ones who thought a hundred bucks a night was chump change, sold drugs. Though Flushing is considered a relatively safe part of New York, Colden Street was known to police as the area's worst block, by far.

"I've seen kids who were 15 or 16 years old carrying pistols," Kelley says. "One time, I saw a guy on the corner get shot in the chest. He just sat on the curb bleeding until the ambulance came."

Kelley was never lured into the trap of the streets. He graduated from high school, spent a year-and-a-half in college, and even worked briefly as an auto mechanic while studying and boxing at the same time.

"It's not the usual story of a fighter from the ghetto," he says. "There's no ghetto in Flushing. It was just a bad element. Guys at the Golden Gloves used to laugh at me because I was from Flushing. They were from Bed-Stuy or Brownsville [in Brooklyn], so they thought they were tougher than

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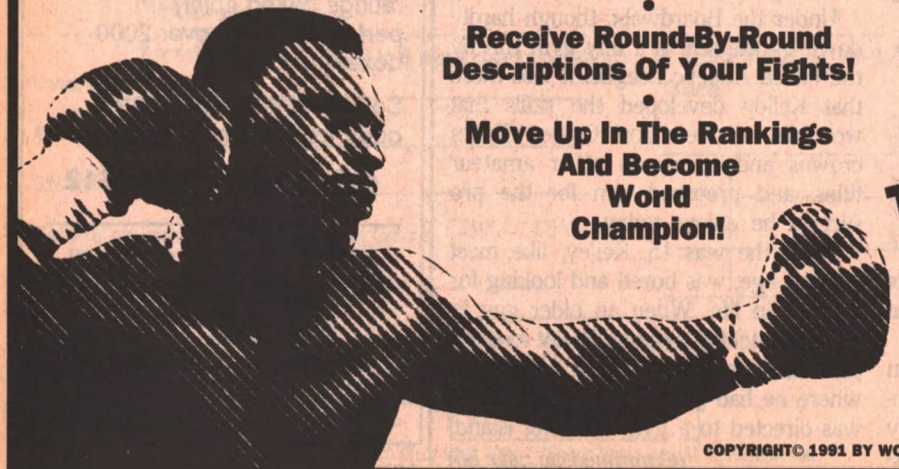

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me. A lot of people made that mistake."

One of them was former IBF featherweight titlist Troy Dorsey, who probably never heard of Flushing, and only knew of the Brownsville back home in Texas. Dorsey probably assumed he was tougher than Kelley because, after all, he's tougher than almost everyone. But at The Paramount in February, Kelley captured a unanimous decision in a wild brawl that featured 2,806 punches. Those who wondered if Kelley had the heart to be world class got the answer in living black and blue.

"I wasn't gonna lose to a cowboy boot-wearing Texan," Kelley says. "Not a kid from New York."

***

That Flushing sound you hear is Szechuan beef sizzling in a wok. In the last decade, Flushing's Asian population has increased dramatically. The influx of Chinese, Koreans, Vietnamese, Japanese, and Indians has been so great, in fact, that the city was forced to pass a law requiring local businessmen to post signs in *English* as well as their native languages.

"We call the place Flush-ching now," Kelley jokes.

Enter some Flushing businesses and there is virtually no reminder that you are on American soil. Except when a Kelley bout is scheduled, that is, and every place from the Chinese restaurants to the Korean bakeries to the Indian spice shops have his fight posters displayed in their windows.

"The community really supports me," he says. "When I fight at The Paramount, I always sell $10,000 worth of tickets."

In Flushing, the relationship between fighter and community is two-way—unlike most of the streets. Kelley visits schools and hospitals, stressing the value of education and the horror of drugs, and reminding kids of something his mother used to tell him: Everybody is great at something, and it's just a matter of discovering what that something is.

"I don't just make an appearance, then I'm gone, and the kids are only left with autographs," he explains. "I keep coming back before my fights. School kids can't relate to a Carl Lewis coming once. You have to show them that you're one of them.

"All these kids from third and fourth and fifth grade were at the Dorsey fight, and when I looked out in the crowd, I saw them holding big signs that said, 'WE LOVE KEVIN.' That really makes a difference when you're in a tough fight. It's an unbelievable feeling."

***

That Flushing sound you hear is the scream Kevin Kelley lets out as he stands in front of the Unisphere, hands over head, and imagines himself winning the featherweight championship. The Unisphere is the legacy of the '64 World's Fair, a 140-foot tall globe that has become the unofficial symbol of Queens. And soon, Kelley hopes, kings.

"I win the title," The Mayor of Flushing says, "and I put this place on the map. Then I'll be the hero to kids that the drug dealers want to be. Hodkinson's tough, but he cuts easily. I had my war with Dorsey, now I'm gonna do some boxing job on Hodkinson. He's not getting in my way."

A few minutes later, Kelley is back in front of his apartment, the one that is far from Colden Street, but just as far from Easy Street. Maybe that will change. But even if it does, "I'll always be in Flushing," he promises. "Probably just move to a richer part."

He steps out of the car, closes the door, and disappears up the stairs leading to his apartment. That Flushing sound you hear is . . . nothing.

For the first time all day, everything seems so quiet. ■

Bob Foster

(Continued from page 34)

made 14 successul defenses (a division record), was the most devastating 175-pounder of his generation. And could he ever punch. In May 1968, he knocked out Dick Tiger with a sweeping hook to the chin. The concussive force of the punch sent the champion to the canvas butt-first, and gave Foster the world title. He followed with kayo wins in 11 of his defenses.

Foster, 53, still has a big punch. A few winters ago, he got into a street-fight with a fellow who had slipped on a patch of ice.

"The sight of a 6'2", 240-pound white guy flying through the air just hit me funny," Foster said. "I laughed at first. Then I apologized to him when I saw how upset he was. But he didn't want to hear it, so he cursed me out. Guess he didn't know who I was because he began calling me a motherf_____ and a son of a bitch."

Just as the guy was about to throw a punch, Foster fired a short right that connected with his face. It was as swift and elegant a blow as the former champion had ever thrown.

"It traveled about six inches," Foster recalled, indicating the distance with his thumb and forefinger. "I followed that with two left hooks and left him lying there."

When Bob Jr. heard the story, he nodded knowingly.

"You don't mess around with my father," he said. "He's a down-to-earth man, but rub him the wrong way and you'll get a whuppin'."

Bob Jr. had his share of fights, too. He fought 40 amateur bouts, but never turned pro. Apparently, he was more successful on the streets than in the ring.

"Once, some guy insulted me and I knocked him out cold," he said, smiling at the memory of the loudmouth collapsing at his feet. "Then I bent down and slapped him on the face a little. When he came to, I kayoed him again."

"Bobby was always a real good streetfighter," said Foster, placing an arm around his son. The two of them laughed aloud.

After 17 years, the deputy sheriff had finally gotten his man. ■

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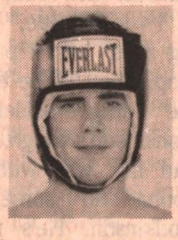

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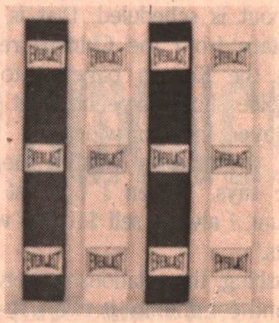

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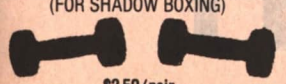

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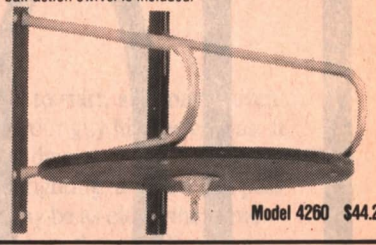

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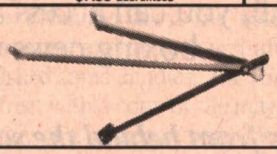

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Boxing Collector's Notebook

By Don Scott

It is what you read while you are waiting for the fight to start, and maybe even what you whack the guy in front of you with when your guy hits the canvas. It is the boxing program, and it is *very* collectible these days.

Since most promoters want folks to know who is fighting, and few can pass up a chance to make a buck, the boxing program may be as old as the game itself. Programs can be found from the late-19th century through the present. They vary in their form and desirability.

First and foremost is the significance of the fight and fighters involved. Big favorites are Dempsey-Carpentier, Dempsey-Tunney (both fights), Louis-Schmeling (both fights), and Marciano-Walcott (both fights).

Corbett-Sullivan memorabilia

The most desirable of all fight programs surfaced recently, and two copies are being auctioned off by Wolffer's auction house in San Francisco. The previously unknown Sullivan-Corbett program from 1892 is rare and well-made, and is symbolic of the dawn of popular pugilism in this country. Experts estimate the selling price to be well over $20,000!

Secondly, programs vary by rarity. This can be tricky. For some reason, every now and then, many more programs were made than were sold at a fight. That is common today because there is a secondary collectors' market. But no one can figure out why there are literally hundreds, maybe thousands of some programs such as Patterson-Harris or the closed-circuit program for Ali-Foreman. (Closed-circuit programs are always less desirable than the fight site programs.)

Finally, quality and condition do count. From the '20s to the '60s, the Harry Stevens Company made some of the grandest and most sought-after of all programs. In the '80s, Jay Seidman published some dandies. *The Ring* produced some programs, too. These came free, with a copy of the magazine, in New York City. They usually consisted only of a mimeographed sheet. However, I have seen four-page illustrated programs that were given free with *The Ring* for the Greb-Loughran bout.

Keep in mind that most programs made in the '80s can still be had for $20-$30. Many of these were made in fairly large quantities, but remain some of the nicest programs ever made. Here is a smattering of estimates:

Torres-Olson $45	**Griffith-Paret III 1961 $80**	**Clay-Liston $300**
Marciano-Matthews $190	**Liston-Harris $130**	**Holmes-Ali $70**
Ali-Mathis $220	**Tyson-Green $150**	**Louis-Nova $300**
Louis-Mauriello $450	**Napoles-Cokes I $37**	**Ali-Quarry I $325**
Ali-Shavers $325	**Berbick-Ali $400**	**Robinson-Turpin II $200**
Monzon-Napoles $125	**Tyson-Smith $60**	**Marciano-Moore $425**

***If you have any questions, or have any boxing memorabilia to sell or trade, write to* Collectibles, The Ring, Box 768, Rockville Centre, NY 11571** ■

Worldwide Ratings

WBC as of May

WBA as of April

IBF as of May

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Evander Holyfield (USA)	C	C	C
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	1	5	5
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	2	4
Riddick Bowe (USA)	3	3	3
Tony Tucker (USA)	4	11	10
George Foreman (USA)	5	4	1
Larry Holmes (USA)	6	7	8
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	7	6	7
Alex Stewart (JAM)	8	-	-
Phil Jackson (USA)	9	10	-
Ray Mercer (USA)	10	-	9
Pierre Coetzer (SA)	-	1	2
Michael Moorer (USA)	-	8	6
Bert Cooper (USA)	13	9	11

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	-	-
Orlin Norris (USA)	1	4	3
Derek Angol (GB)	2	2	5
Akim Tafer (FRA)	3	5	11
Alfred Cole (USA)	4	1	1
Dennis Andries (GB)	5	8	-
Johnny Nelson (GB)	6	3	2
Nate Miller (USA)	7	-	-
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	8	-	-
Arthur Williams (USA)	9	-	-
Dwight Muhammad Qawi (USA)	10	7	6
Bobby Czyz (USA)	-	C	-
Don Lalonde (CAN)	-	6	7
Bashiru Ali (NIG)	16	9	-
Craig Peterson (AUSTRL)	-	10	-
James Warring (USA)	-	-	C
Mike Hunter (USA)	-	-	4
Carlos DeLeon (PR)	-	-	8
Uriah Grant (USA)	-	-	9
Dmitrij Eliseev (USSR)	18	-	10

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Frank Tate (USA)	1	1	1
David Vedder (USA)	2	-	-
Christophe Tiozzo (FRA)	3	5	9
Randall Yonker (USA)	4	-	-
Crawford Ashley (GB)	5	9	-
Henry Maske (GER)	6	11	6
Esteban Pizarro (PR)	7	10	7
Don Lalonde (CAN)	8	-	-
Lottie Mwale (ZAM)	9	-	-
Andrew Maynard (USA)	10	7	10
Virgil Hill (USA)	-	2	2
Thomas Hearns (USA)	-	3	-
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	-	4	-
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	16	6	-
Wan Sub Lee (KOR)	29	8	-
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
Saul Montana (MEX)	-	-	3
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	-	-	4
Tim Hillie (USA)	-	-	5
Booker Word (USA)	15	-	8

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	C	-	-
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	1	2
Tony Thornton (USA)	2	2	1
Nigel Benn (GB)	3	4	10
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	4	3	3
Otis Grant (CAN)	5	12	-
Ron Essett (USA)	6	7	-
Henry Wharton (GB)	7	-	9
Dan Schommer (USA)	8	-	-
Merqui Sosa (DR)	9	11	-
Frank Liles (USA)	10	6	-
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	-	C	-
Tim Littles (USA)	18	5	5
Lindell Holmes (USA)	-	8	6
Randall Yonker (USA)	-	9	-
James Cook (GB)	11	10	8
Iran Barkley (USA)	-	-	C
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	14	-	4
Larry Musgrove (USA)	20	-	7

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (VI)	C	-	-
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	1	2	5
Lamar Parks (USA)	2	1	2
Mike McCallum (JAM)	3	4	1
Roy Jones (USA)	4	6	4
Herol Graham (GB)	5	-	-
Jorge Castro (ARG)	6	-	-
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	7	9	3
Ron Collins (USA)	8	-	-
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	9	-	-
Steve Collins (USA)	10	3	8
Reggie Johnson (USA)	-	C	-
Chad Parker (USA)	-	5	-
Joe Gatti (USA)	12	7	-
Ruben Cabral (ARG)	-	8	-
Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA)	11	10	11
James Toney (USA)	-	-	C
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	-	-	6
Percy Harris (USA)	13	-	7
Tyrone Trice (USA)	-	-	9
Dave Tiberi (USA)	19	-	10

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	-	-
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	1	1	-
Simon Brown (USA)	2	5	-
Aaron Davis (USA)	3	2	7
Jean-Claude Fontana (FRA)	4	9	11
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	5	-	12
Carl Daniels (USA)	6	12	4
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	7	4	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	8	3	1
Wally Swift (GB)	9	-	3
William Jones (USA)	10	-	-
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	-	C	-
Jorge Castro (ARG)	-	6	6
Hitoshi Kamiyama (JAP)	17	7	-
Vernon Phillips (USA)	-	8	10
Gregory Clark (SA)	-	10	-
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Vincent Pettway (USA)	11	-	2
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	-	-	5
Quincy Taylor (USA)	-	-	8
Pat Lawlor (USA)	15	11	9

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
James McGirt (USA)	C	-	-
Genaro Leon (MEX)	1	4	12
Patrizio Oliva (ITA)	2	7	1
Santos Cardona (PR)	3	-	-
Glenwood Brown (USA)	4	3	9
Luis Gabriel Garcia (VEN)	5	2	2
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	6	1	3
Vernon Phillips (USA)	7	-	-
Jong Oh Park (KOR)	8	5	-
David Gonzalez (USA)	9	-	8
Pat Barrett (GB)	10	-	-
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	-	C	-
Yori Campas (MEX)	24	6	4
Ludovic Proto (FRA)	11	8	-
Donovan Boucher (CAN)	12	9	11
Francisco Castillejo	-	10	-
Maurice Blocker (USA)	-	-	C
Kevin Pompey (USA)	22	-	5
Buck Smith (USA)	13	12	6
Stephan Johnson (USA)	-	-	7
Angel Hernandez (SPA)	-	-	10

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	-
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	1	1	-
Hector Camacho (PR)	2	-	-
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	3	2	1
Terrence Alli (USA)	4	4	2
Rodney Moore (USA)	5	3	4

Greg Haugen (USA)	6	-	-
Angel Hernandez (PR)	7	10	-
Andy Holligan (GB)	8	-	8
Charles Murray (USA)	9	-	3
Carlos Gonzalez (MEX)	10	-	-
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	-	C	-
Edwin Rosario (PR)	-	5	-
Rodolfo Aguilar (PAN)	30	6	-
Morris East (PHIL)	28	7	-
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	21	8	-
Loreto Garza (USA)	19	9	-
Rafael Pineda (COL)	-	-	C
Pat Barrett (GB)	-	-	5
Roger Mayweather (USA)	17	-	6
Oba Carr (USA)	-	11	7
Ike Quartey (GHA)	-	-	9
Vince Phillips (USA)	15	-	10

LIGHTWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Darryll Tyson (USA)	1	3	5
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	2	7	-
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	3	6	10
Jorge Paez (MEX)	4	4	4
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	5	-	1
Wilfredo Rocha (COL)	6	-	11
Joey Gamache (USA)	7	2	-
Frankie Mitchell (USA)	8	8	8
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	9	11	-
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	10	-	-
Chil Sung Chun (KOR)	11	1	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	-	5	9
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	15	9	12
Tracy Spann (USA)	14	10	2
Eduardo Molina (COL)	18	-	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	20	-	6
Shane Knox (AUSTRL)	12	12	7

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Gabe Ruelas (USA)	1	2	6
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	2	8	12
Bernard Taylor (USA)	3	9	2
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	4	-	-
Renato Cornett (AUSTRL)	5	11	-
Calvin Grove (USA)	6	4	8
Tony Lopez (USA)	7	-	-
Regilio Tuur (HOL)	8	-	-
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	9	-	-
Jimmi Bredahl (DEN)	10	3	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	-	C	-
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	20	1	-
Juan Negron (PR)	15	5	-
Harold Warren (USA)	23	6	-
Masuaki Takeda (JAP)	28	7	-
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	24	10	-
John-John Molina (PR)	-	-	C
Fernando Caicedo (COL)	-	-	1
Coco Ramirez (MEX)	11	-	3
Jerry Ngobeni (SA)	-	-	4
Jackie Gunguluza (SA)	-	-	5
Orlando Marimon (COL)	-	-	7
Orlando Soto (PAN)	-	-	9
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	29	-	10

FEATHERWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	C	-	-
Kevin Kelley (USA)	1	1	3
Ever Beleno (COL)	2	9	6
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	3	-	-
James Leija (USA)	4	6	4
Jose Ramos (DR)	5	-	-
Pedro Decima (ARG)	6	-	-
Chan Yong Park (KOR)	7	-	-
Jemal Hinton (USA)	8	3	8
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	9	-	-
Tom Johnson (USA)	10	2	2
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	-	C	-
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	23	4	-
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	-	5	-
Colin McMillan (GB)	-	7	10
Eleodoro Urbina (PER)	-	8	-
Chris Saguid (PHI)	15	10	-
Manuel Medina (MEX)	-	-	C
November Ntshingila (SA)	-	12	1
Louie Espinoza (USA)	13	-	5
Cedric Mingo (USA)	-	-	7
Troy Dorsey (USA)	14	-	9

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	C	-	-
Tracy Patterson (USA)	1	2	1
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	-	-
Freddy Cruz (DR)	3	1	-
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	4	6	2
Rudy Zavala (USA)	5	10	10
Julio Gervacio (DR)	6	-	-
Jose Garcia (DR)	7	-	-
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	8	5	-
Luis Mendoza (COL)	9	4	-
Raul Perez (MEX)	10	-	12
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	-	C	-
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	-	3	6
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	21	7	-
Jose Rincones (VEN)	-	8	7
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	-	9	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	C
Richard Duran (USA)	-	-	3
Jesus Salud (USA)	19	-	4
Pedro Decima (ARG)	-	-	5
Sakda Sawpungdee (THAI)	-	-	8
Nurhuda (INDO)	-	-	9

BANTAMWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	C	-	10
Victor Rabanales* (MEX)	C	-	-
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	1	-	-
Eliecer Julio (COL)	2	1	4
Junior Jones (USA)	3	2	1
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	4	-	9
Clarence Adams (USA)	5	7	6
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	6	6	-
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	7	3	-
Javier Leon (MEX)	8	8	3
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	9	11	11
Yasuey Yakushiji (JAP)	10	4	-
Eddie Cook (USA)	-	C	-
Israel Contreras (VEN)	21	5	-
Abraham Torres (VEN)	-	9	-
Harold Mestre (COL)	28	10	8
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	-	-	2
Francisco Alvarez (COL)	19	-	5
Junai Ramayana (INDO)	-	-	7

*Interim Champion

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	-	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	1	-	-
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	2	9	3
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	3	8	-
Kenji Matsumura (JAP)	4	5	-
Armando Salazar (MEX)	5	-	-
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	6	11	-
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI)	7	2	-
Armando Castro (MEX)	8	1	9
Joel Luna (MEX)	9	6	1
Bernardo Mendoza (CHI)	10	-	-
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	-	C	-
Hyun Chul Lee (KOR)	22	3	-
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	-	4	-
Jing Gil Byun (KOR)	11	7	-
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	19	10	7
Robert Quiroga (USA)	-	-	C
Luiz Ferreira (BRA)	-	12	2
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	-	-	4
Carlos Mercado (COL)	15	-	5
Samuel Duran (PHIL)	-	-	6
Ole Kiatwonway (USA)	-	-	8
Dan Nietes (PHIL)	-	-	10

FLYWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	C	-	-
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	-	2
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	2	-	-
Yuri Arbachakov (USSR)	3	-	7
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	4	4	-
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	5	-	-
Al Kotey (GHA)	6	7	5
Sot Chitalada (THAI)	7	-	-
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	8	-	-
Cuachtemoc Gomez (MEX)	9	-	-
Antonio Perez (MEX)	10	-	-
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	-	C	-
David Griman (VEN)	-	1	-
Yuri Ebihara (JAP)	-	2	-
Scotty Olson (USA)	12	3	3
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	-	5	1
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	30	6	10
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	-	8	-
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	-	9	-
Jonathan Penalosa (PHIL)	20	10	8
Dave McAuley (IRE)	-	-	C
Pichit Sitbangphachan (THAI)	26	-	4
Rafael Caban (PR)	-	-	6
Harold Grey (COL)	-	-	9

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	9	5
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	2	4	-
Javier Varguez (MEX)	3	-	-
Leon Salazar (PAN)	4	-	3
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	5	8	-
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	6	5	-
Domingo Sosa (DR)	7	-	-
Jesus Chong (MEX)	8	-	-
Napa Kiatwanchi (THAI)	9	-	-
Shiro Yahiro (Japan)	10	10	-
Hiroka Ioka (JAP)	-	C	-
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	-	1	-
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	13	2	6
Benedicto Murillo (PAN)	15	3	-
Robinson Cuestas (PAN)	-	6	1
Bong Jun Kim (KOR)	17	7	-
Michael Carbajal (USA)	-	-	C
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	-	-	2
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	-	-	4
Raul Rios (MEX)	14	-	7
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	-	-	8
Salvador Fanni (ITA)	-	11	9
Jacob Matlala (SA)	-	-	10

STRAWWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	-	-
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	1	4	-
Rocky Lim (JAP)	2	6	-
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	10	1
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	4	1	-
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	5	3	3
Kwang Soo Oh (KOR)	6	-	-
Singprasert Kittikasem (THAI)	7	-	-
Rafael Torres (DR)	8	2	4
Sung Woo Lee (KOR)	9	5	-
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	10	-	-
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	-	C	-
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	24	7	-
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	16	8	-
Ramel Lawas (PHI)	-	9	-
Far-Lan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	C
Alfredo Xeque (MEX)	11	-	2
Felix Montiel (MEX)	-	-	5
Felix Naranjo (COL)	-	-	6
Said Iskandar (INDO)	22	-	7
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	-	-	8
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	25	-	9
Husni Ray (INDO)	26	-	10

The RING CLASSIC

HOW GOOD IS FULLMER?

NBA Middleweight Champ Not Rated With Greats Of The Past

From The Ring, March 1960

By Nat Fleischer

The one-sided decision in the Gene Fullmer-Spider Webb NBA middleweight championship bout created quite a rumpus. Ringsiders were almost unanimous in their opinion that Gene had defeated the Spider, but definitely not by the big margin given by the three officials, especially the judge who gave Fullmer 13 of the 15 rounds and called the other two even. TV viewers flooded *The Ring* office with protests.

"Another hometown verdict," some complained. "Webb was jobbed. He outclassed Fullmer."

"What kind of a champion is Gene, who backpedaled in most of the rounds, yet received the unanimous decision?"

The Ring editor was at ringside. He thought Gene was entitled to the verdict.

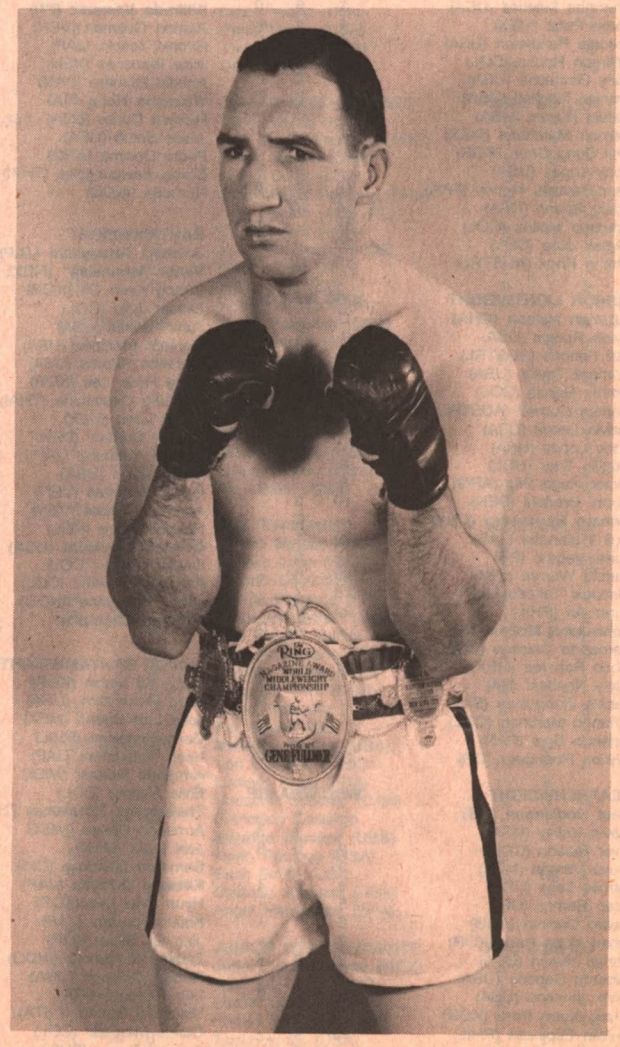
"What kind of a champion is Fullmer?" wrote Ronald Haywood of Fresno, California.

"Can Gene be classed with any of the top middleweights of the past?" asked Harold Christie of Houston, Texas. "In my opinion, Gene would have been battered by any of the clever middleweights listed in your top ranking of world boxers."

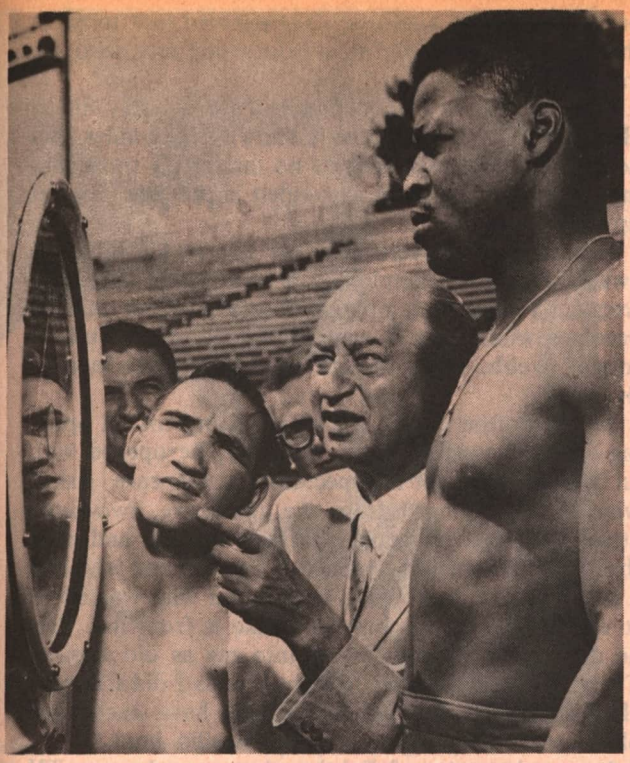
Let's analyze Fullmer's record and see how good he really is. Where does he fit in with the greats in what was once one of the greatest of all classes in boxing? What has Gene accomplished both before and after he had won the crown from Ray Robinson?

Fullmer is listed by this publication as the best middleweight for 1959, rated above Robinson, who, though shorn of his crown by the NBA, is recognized as the world titleholder by New York and Massachusetts, and in Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America.

What are the assets one looks for when discussing ring greats? Extraordinary ring science is one. Powerful hitting is another. But if one possesses both, he is somebody special.



Though Gene Fullmer may not compare favorably with the middleweight legends of the past, he has proven his superiority over his contemporaries.



Fullmer and promoter Joe Dupler eye the scale as Spider Webb weighs in for his December 1959 try at the NBA middleweight title in Logan, Utah.

Scientific boxing includes feinting, ducking, parrying punches, sidestepping, countering, and good blocking. How many of these assets does Gene possess?

Is Fullmer a combination fighter? Can he keep an opponent off-balance by clever jabbing? Is he a quick thinker?

A boxer possessing all of the above assets would be the perfect fighter. But how many such have there been within the past half-century?

A boxer may possess cleverness, or he may be a hard hitter. Seldom is he both. We must consider the caliber of the individual as he stands up under current rules and regulations, and against the type of opposition that he must face.

Not in many years have we had a boxer who could be called a master. No longer do we find the likes of Joe Gans or Benny Leonard. Nor are there any Jack Johnsons.

Hence we must consider the boxers of today in terms of the available talent. When attacks are made on pugilists of this era because they lack some of the features of great boxing men of the past, we assume an unfair attitude toward the present-day fighters. That figures in the case of Fullmer.

Fullmer always enters the ring in perfect condition. He is a fighter of determination. He possesses strength and durability. These four, combined with

THE RING RATINGS, *March 1960*

Don Jordan

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Ingemar Johansson**, Sweden

1. **Zora Folley**, Chandler, AZ
2. **Floyd Patterson**, Rockville Centre, NY
3. **Sonny Liston**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Henry Cooper**, England
5. **Eddie Machen**, Redding, CA
6. **Bily Hunter**, Detroit, MI
7. **Roy Harris**, Cut and Shoot, TX
8. **Mike DeJohn**, Syracuse, NY
9. **Joe Erskine**, Wales
10. **Alex Miteff**, Argentina

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Archie Moore**, San Diego, CA

1. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Erich Schoppner**, Germany
3. **Mike Holt**, South Africa
4. **Von Clay**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Sixto Rodriguez**, San Anselmo, CA
6. **Jesse Bowdry**, St. Louis, MO
7. **Johnny Halafihi**, Tonga
8. **Sonny Ray**, Chicago, IL
9. **Chic Calderwood**, Scotland
10. **Sante Amonti**, Italy

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Ray Robinson**, New York, NY

1. **Gene Fullmer***, West Jordan, UT
2. **Gustav Scholz**, Germany
3. **Spider Webb**, Chicago, IL
4. **Joey Giardello**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Henry Hank**, Detroit, MI
6. **Carmen Basilio**, Chitanango, NY
7. **Dick Tiger**, Nigeria
8. **Paul Pender**, Boston, MA
9. **Joey Giambra**, San Francisco, CA
10. **Holly Mims**, Washington, D.C.

***NBA Middleweight Champion**

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Don Jordan**, Los Angeles, CA

1. **Luis Rodriguez**, Cuba
2. **Charley Scott**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Rudell Stitch**, Louisville, KY
4. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
5. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
6. **Sugar Hart**, Philadelphia, PA
7. **Kenny Lane**, Muskegon, MI
8. **Federico Thompson**, Argentina
9. **Benny Paret**, Cuba
10. **Florentino Fernandez**, Cuba

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Joe Brown**, Baton Rouge, LA

1. **Paolo Rosi**, New York, NY
2. **Carlos Ortiz***, New York, NY
3. **Dave Charnley**, England
4. **Battling Torres**, Mexico
5. **Willie Toweel**, South Africa
6. **Len Matthews**, Philadelphia, PA
7. **Paul Armstead**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Johnny Gonsalves**, Oakland, CA
9. **Mario Vecchiato**, Italy
10. **Johnny Busso**, New York, NY

***NBA Junior Welterweight Champion**

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Davey Moore**, Springfield, OH

1. **Ricardo Gonzalez**, Argentina
2. **Harold Gomes***, Providence, RI
3. **Gracieux Lamperti**, France
4. **Hogan (Kid) Bassey**, Nigeria
5. **Sergio Caprari**, Italy
6. **Paul Jorgensen**, Port Arthur, TX
7. **Rafiu King**, Nigeria
8. **Ike Chestnut**, New York, NY
9. **Flash Elorde**, Philippines
10. **Sugar Ramos**, Cuba

***NBA Junior Lightweight Champion**

BANTAMWEIGHTS

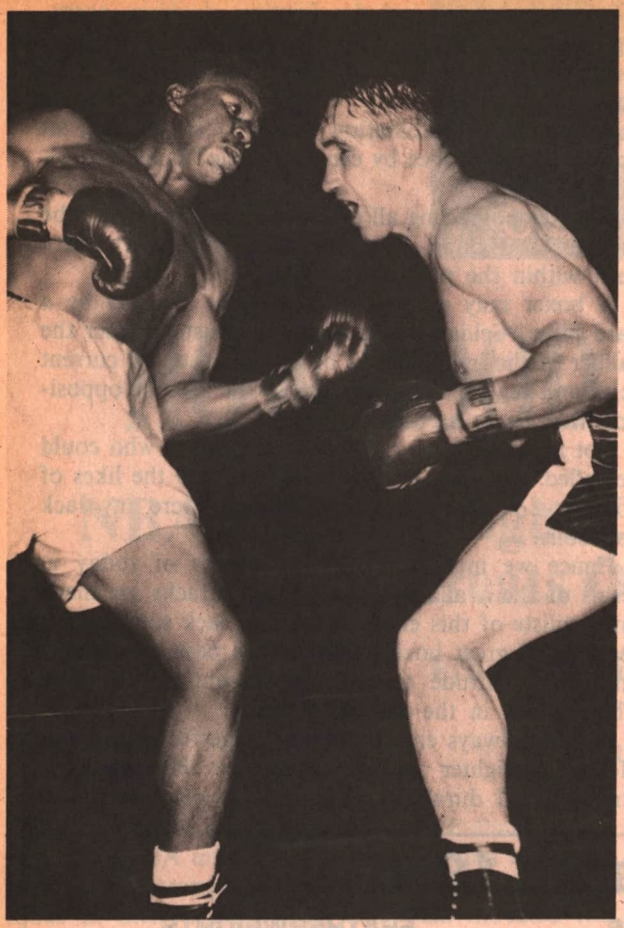
World Champ: **Joe Becerra**, Mexico

1. **Alphonse Halimi**, France
2. **Freddie Gilroy**, Ireland
3. **Eder Jofre**, Brazil
4. **Piero Rollo**, Italy
5. **Danny Kid**, Philippines
6. **Leo Espinosa**, Philippines
7. **Jose Lopez**, Mexico
8. **Kenji Yonekura**, Japan
9. **Ernesto Miranda**, Argentina
10. **Herman Marques**, Stockton, CA

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Pascual Perez**, Argentina

1. **Sadao Yaoita**, Japan
2. **Pone Kingpetch**, Thailand
3. **Ramon Arias**, Venezuela
4. **Dommy Ursua**, Stockton, CA
5. **Mimum Ben Ali**, Spain
6. **Hiram Bacallao**, Cuba
7. **Risto Luukkonen**, Finland
8. **Larry Pineda**, Philippines
9. **Joe Medel**, Mexico
10. **Ramon Calatayud**, Venezuela



Fullmer holds two victories over top-10 contender Webb. Their first fight, a 10-rounder, came in September 1958 (above). Fullmer won on points. In their December 1959 NBA title fight (below), he scored a unanimous 15-round decision.

ordinary fighting qualities, have enabled him to reach the heights, but he definitely does not rate with the masters of the past.

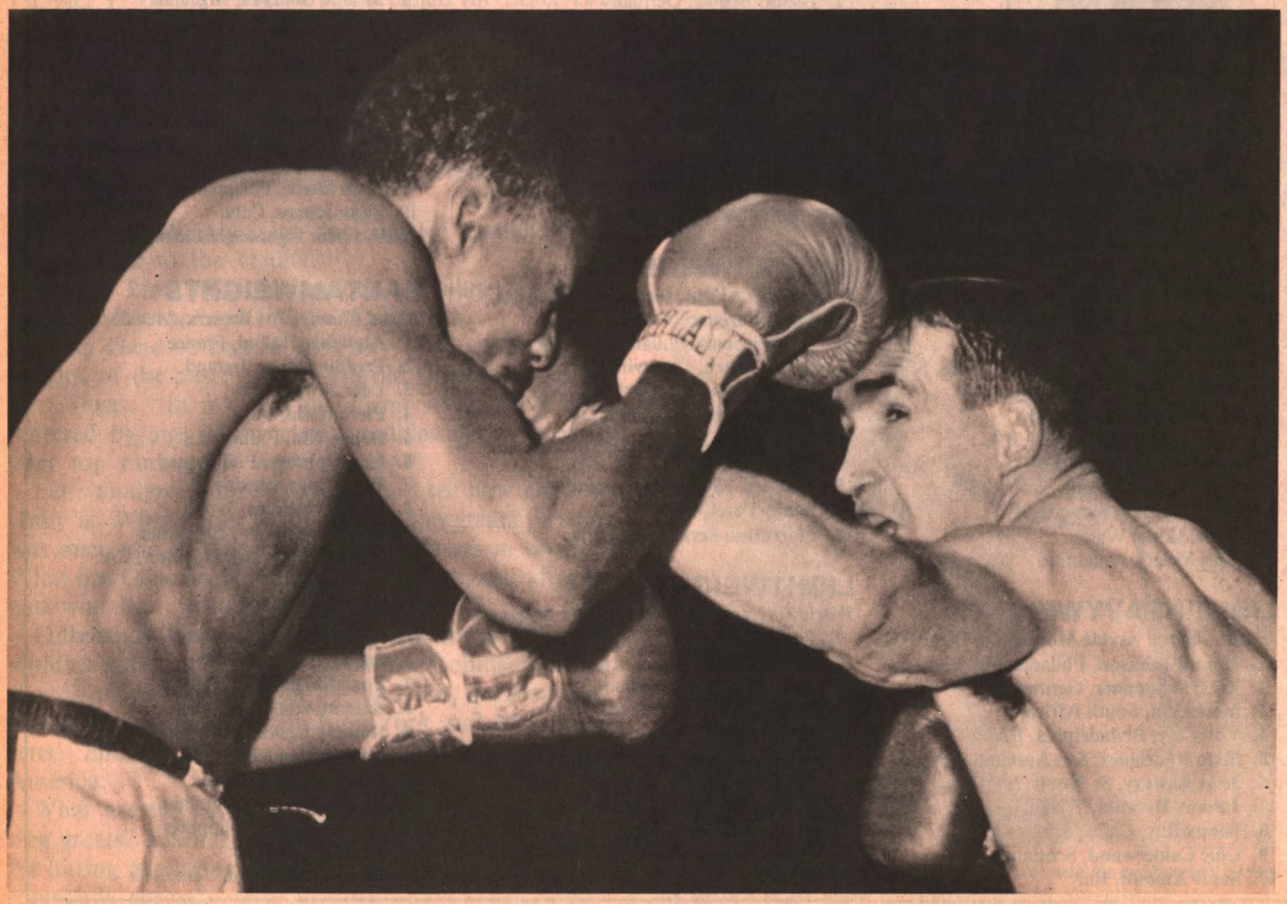
Gene is neither a good puncher nor a heavy hitter. He is what in ring parlance is known as a mauler. But he is a crowd-pleaser because no matter his shortcomings, compared to those who ruled in the past, he puts up a good fight.

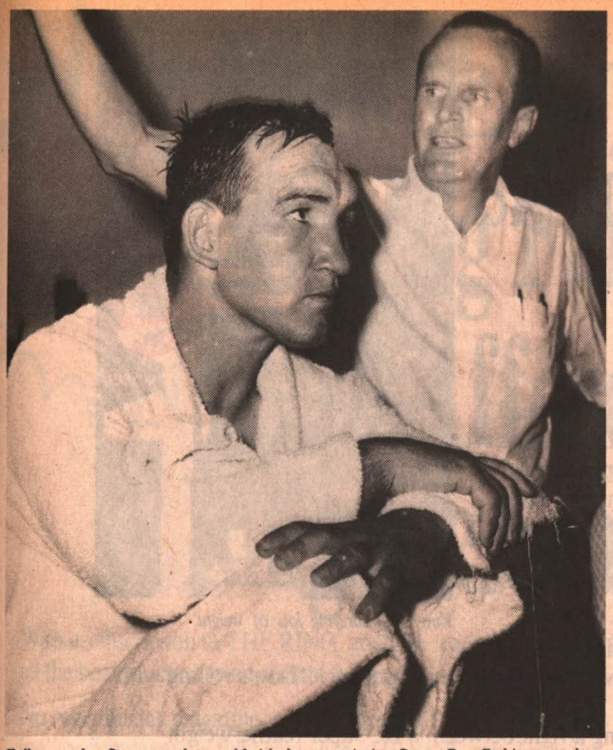
Fullmer lacks cleverness as we like to see it, but is awkwardly clever, employing a style that baffles and frequently angers an opponent to the extent that he becomes wild. That is what happened when Fullmer fought Webb, who, though aggressive, was ineffectively so.

Fullmer often circled the ring waiting for an opening—a boring style. Then, suddenly, he opened with an offense that kept the spectators in suspense. Asked why he had changed from the aggressive, two-fisted attack he displayed against Basilio—his best and most thrilling encounter—he replied, "I'm the one who had a title at stake, and Webb is the man who wanted it. It was up to him to come and take it from me. This he didn't do. He didn't tear into me as did Basilio. Therefore, I didn't have to fight him as I did Carmen. Had he forced the fight, I would have exchanged blows with him, as I did in the Basilio bout."

It was that type of fighting that caused many TV viewers to object to the verdict. They credited Webb with aggressiveness, though those at the fight noted how ineffective that aggressiveness was.

"I wanted him to do the leading," Fullmer remarked in the dressing room. "I would have liked to have repeated my performance when I stopped Basilio. Webb was responsible for my failure to do so."





Fullmer, who first won the world title by outpointing Sugar Ray Robinson, relaxes after a workout as his longtime manager, Marv Jensen, addresses the press.

That failure caused Fullmer a loss in prestige, but it didn't bring down his high ranking for the year.

So much for the analysis of Fullmer's performances in 1959. What about other years? What does his fighting background show?

As an amateur he had an excellent record. Few have had as thorough a schooling, both as a simon pure and a pro. If ever a fighter went through the mill to prepare himself for a boxing career, Gene is one of them.

His schooling began when he was only a kid. As an amateur, he fought 70 battles and lost only four. He won four Golden Glove titles and five Inter-Mountain AAU championships, then went into the Olympic Trials as a welter and lost by an eyelash to Johnny Gonsalves in the Western finals in San Francisco.

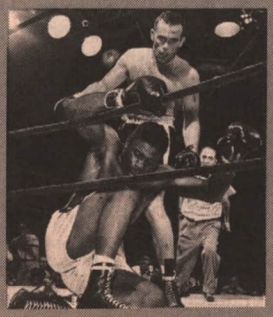
He also took part in the National AAU welterweight final, in which another future pro, Gil Turner, nosed Gene out. As a professional, Gene has faced Turner three times, winning twice. Fullmer has also fought such top middleweights as Bobby Boyd, French champion Charley Humez, Argentine champion Eduardo Lausse, Rocky Castellani, Tiger Jones, Ray Robinson, from whom he won the world title and to whom he later lost it, and Webb.

All of which proves that Gene, unlike Robinson, never ducked an issue. He got to the top by fighting all comers—the best in his division. He gained prestige not because his manager, Marv Jensen, fed him set-ups for a build-up, but because he had the qualities that enabled him to move up on his own.

This muscular young elder of the Mormon church is not to be compared to the outstanding middleweights of the past. But he is the best of the current crop, a busy pugilist who likes to fight, likes people in the fight game, and gives his best every time he enters the roped square. He is a tireless worker both in the ring and in training. Therein lies the secret of his success. ■

THE RING, March 1960

The Cover: Gene Fullmer isn't a speedy boxer. Or a classic counterpuncher. Or a knockout artist. But he is the middleweight champion, and Editor Nat Fleischer analyzes his place among history's 160-pounders. His conclusion: Fullmer isn't an all-time great, but he's clearly the best of the current lot.



Ingo-Floyd II: According to Associate Editor Dan Daniel, it's a given that heavyweight champion Ingemar Johansson and Floyd Patterson will fight for a second time in June. And, Daniel adds, Johansson is likely to again knock out Floyd. In their first fight (pictured), Ingo scored a third-round knockout.

Hammerin' Hank: Lew Eskin profiles Detroit's hard-punching Henry Hank, who is rated fifth at middleweight. Hank, who turned pro at age 17, has registered wins over, among others, George Benton and light heavyweight Jesse Bowdry. His upcoming rematch with Bowdry will be his first national television exposure.

The Wallopers From Wales: Fighters from Wales are threatening to again become a major factor in British, and possibly international, competition. Previously home to such outstanding champions as Jimmy Wilde, Jim Driscoll, and Freddie Welsh, Wales now flaunts a handful of prospects, including featherweight Phil Jones, bantamweights Johnny Thomas and Howard Winstone, and welterweight Brian Curvis (pictured).

Fighter Of The Month: Activity was minimal during the Yuletide season, but heavyweight Zora Folley scored a major win, outpointing fellow contender Eddie Machen over 12 rounds. The victory enabled Folley to pass former champion Floyd Patterson in the ratings. He's now ranked first.

Looking Ahead

By Robert Cassidy

King: Still carrying lots of weight

VIVA LA KING?

Just when you thought the King was dead, Don King proved once again that he is the most resilient man in boxing. The self-proclaimed magnanimous promoter may be under siege from the FBI and the U.S. Treasury Department, but he's been able to forge an alliance with London-based promoter Mickey Duff and fellow promoter Cedric Kushner.

"We've got two allies on our side now that used to be enemies," said Al Braverman, King's matchmaker. "Don's rolling with shows."

King and Kushner are discussing a fight between WBC super featherweight champion Azumah Nelson and former two-time 130-pound titlist Brian Mitchell. If negotiations fail, look for Nelson to meet Calvin Grove on a doubleheader that will also feature Michael Nunn vs. Lindell Holmes.

Duff is in search of an opponent for comebacking Frank Bruno, and King could provide him with trialhorses Greg Page and Bonecrusher Smith, or the still dangerous Tony Tucker.

King's August 1 show in Las Vegas features Julio Cesar Chavez and Hector Camacho in separate bouts, and WBC middleweight champion Julian Jackson defending against unbeaten Canadian Otis Grant. Chavez and Camacho are to meet in late-September.

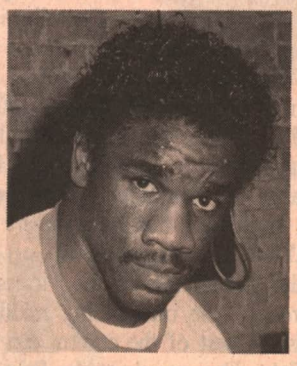
Ruelas: Says yes to Fenech

RUELAS BREAKING THE RULES

There was plenty of speculation that when and if WBC 130-pound champion Azumah Nelson moved up, Gabe Ruelas and Jeff Fenech, rated first and second, respectively, would fight for the vacant title. Guess what? Nelson is staying put. But that hasn't ruled out a Ruelas-Fenech fight.

"Fenech's people offered us six figures and I told them we'd take it," said Dan Goossen, Ruelas' promoter. "I haven't heard back from them yet. I think they were hoping I'd say no."

A resounding "NO!" is probably what they expected. After all, Ruelas is a mandatory challenger, so why would Goossen risk a guaranteed title shot by fighting the always-tough Fenech? The answer: He believes in Ruelas, and feels a win over Fenech can sweeten the pot for a Nelson-Ruelas title fight.



The Prince: Injured again

LISTEN UP

IBF light heavyweight champion **Prince Charles Williams** seems jinxed. In November 1991, Williams broke his left hand while sparring, forcing a cancellation of a scheduled defense vs. **Frank Tate**. In late-May, Williams reinjured the hand—a slight stress fracture hitting the heavybag—forcing a postponement of a scheduled June defense against Germany's **Henry Maske**. Williams-Maske will likely be rescheduled for the fall . . . It now looks like **Darryll Tyson-Miguel Angel Gonzalez**, and not Gonzalez-**Jorge Paez**, for the vacant WBC lightweight title . . . **Tommy Morrison** may face **Alex Stewart** on TVKO's September fight of the month. ■

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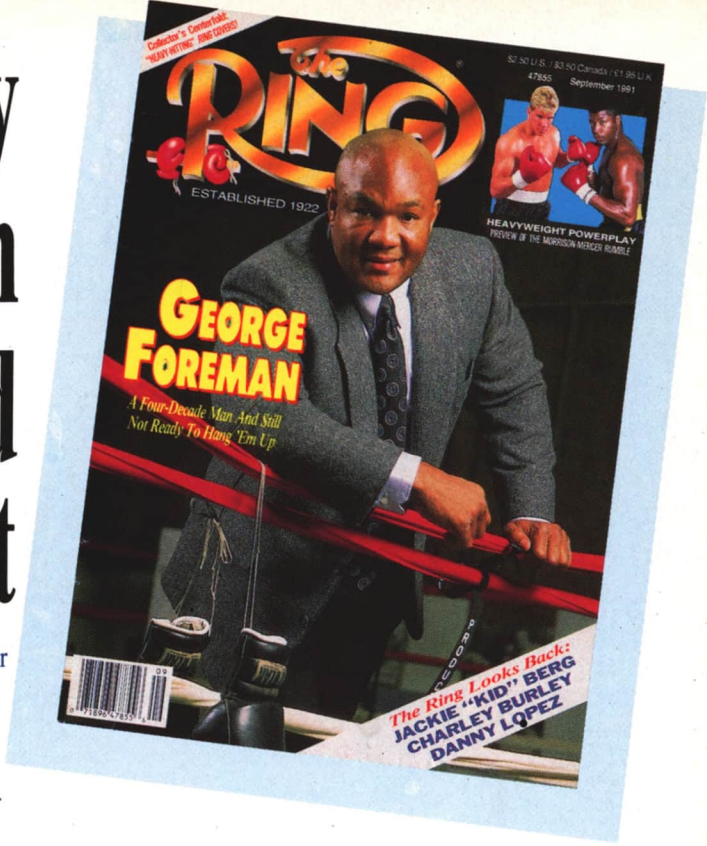

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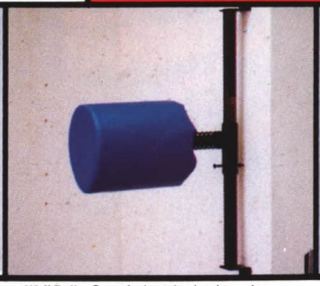

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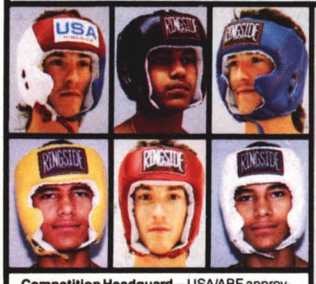

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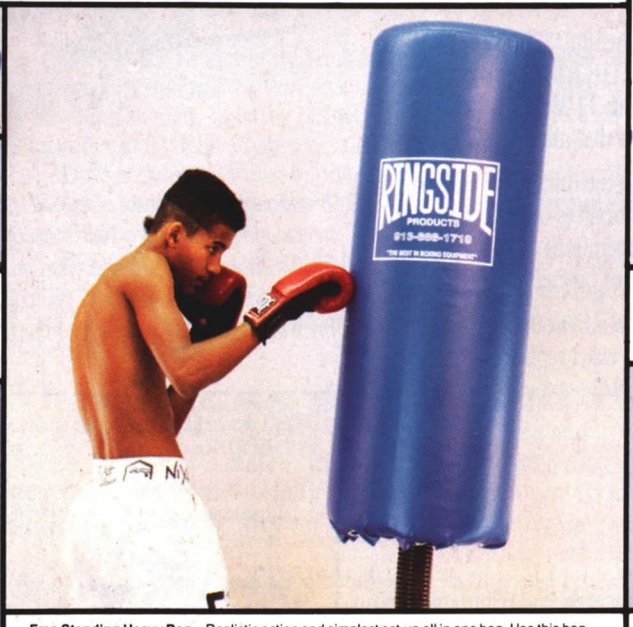

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